

THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ISSUE

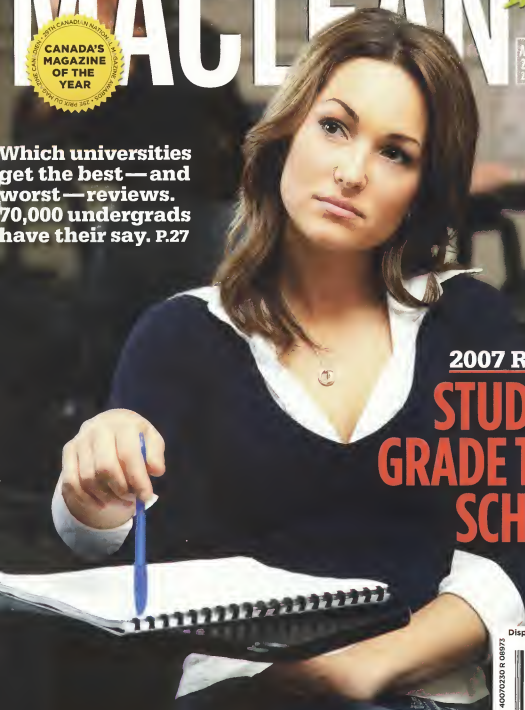
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'A Koranic verse says believing women should cast their outer garments over their persons'



FUELLING EXTREMISM

YOUR ARTICLE on Osama bin Laden presented a realistic and even-voiced spin on terrorism ("Happy 10th, Osama," Cover, March 26). If al Qaeda really is the biggest threat to our civilization, then why have we overreacted as a result of the war in Iraq? Rather than being a strategic solution, it appears that the war has only served to fuel extremism. Further more, if "they" have us because of our freedoms, then why have governments played into the hands of the terrorists by attacking the very civil liberties they are sworn to protect? As tragic as 9/11 was, we need to stop and take a hard look at the events of that day and our response to them. The world is much more complex than good guy/bad guy.

Daniel Newlands, Ottawa

ACCORDING TO the radical global criminal bin Laden, the murder of 2,975 innocent victims at the World Trade Center was a "gift from God." Additionally, this delusional and unrepentant assassin suggests that he is simply "a poor slave of God." What repulsive blasphemy! The irony is that the "god" that bin Laden serves is none other than "the ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan" (Revelation 20:2).

John Whiteford, Scarborough, Ont.

PRaise FOR DALLAIRE

THANK YOU for the Q&A with retired Lt.-Gen. Romeo Dallaire (February, March 12). A few months ago, Dallaire was a guest speaker at a public affairs luncheon meeting here. He spoke candidly of his experience on the African continent. Most notably, he stressed that African women—and women in general—must become empowered; they must obtain higher education and seek positions of leadership. He said that only then will such occurrences as rape riots be eliminated. He also stated that the West does not become overly concerned with internal African conflicts because the victims are not white, and most of the countries do not possess oil reserves. Dallaire is a man of compassion, intelligence, courage and honour. The world should listen to him.

Patrick Meninger, Lethbridge, Alta.

WHAT A STABLE contrast between the two main characters in the March 12 issue. In the interview, an intelligent and compassionate

Canadian trying to do some good in this world. In the belatedly aired "Trial of the Century" (Cover), an arrogant, self-righteous, unethical defence trying to get the best for himself. Issues like Colonel Blund could use some of Romeo Dallaire's humility.

Joan Maxwell Meadows, Scarborough, Ont.



LAST WORD ON RULES

I AM DISAPPOINTED at how ignorant some people can be when it comes to intelligence (Mailing, March 26). The fact that there are people out there who believe immigrants should get special discounts about how to behave in Canada is absurd ("Domesticated and ruled," Cover, March 5). We, as Canadians, have a set of rules to follow and anyone who finds them as the Criminal Code of Canada. We also have rights that we can live by, and these can be found in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Why would we demand a set of rules for someone new to our country? (I've advice them to live within our laws, I believe that should be enough. The fact that one reader made the comment, "We need to know what citizens are responsible and what aren't" in order to avoid embarrassment" makes me wonder whose embarrassment she is worried about? I was born in Canada, and I do not follow customs that other Canadians do. Who is to say what those customs are anyway? The way I view it, we are all immigrants, some of us have just been here longer. People need to let go of their racist ways and accept that there are many different cultures, religions and customs. If the residents of

Herouville, Que., are not happy with the immigrants, pack them up and drive them out by me. We have lots of room.

Diane Lahe, North Saanich, B.C.

JESUS AS A REAL GUY

OUR FAMILY really enjoyed Brian Behrman's article about the tomb of Jesus ("Tales from the Jerusalem crypt," Books, March 12). We think it's more realistic to believe that Jesus was a real person who tried to reform perceptions about what true religion was meant to be. He taught that religion means respect for every member, man, woman and child, no matter who they may be, the rich, the poor and those who are different from us and the world that we share. The fact that Jesus may have been a real human being, a miscreant who tried to change the world for the better, is far more appealing than the fantasy pseudo God figure that he later was projected to be.

Marcel Schoeff, Port Capetian, B.C.

VEILS AND BOSOMS

I WOULD LIKE to correct Barbara Amiel when she says, "The Koran itself doesn't worry about head coverings, remarking only that women should be modest in appearance and modestly adding that righteousness is the best outfit of all" ("Hijabs, hijabs—what must God think of all this?" Opinion, March 19). In the chapter Al-Nur of the Koran, there is this specific injunction: "And say to the believing women that they should lower their guard and guard their modesty, that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what [must necessarily] appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms." Another Islamic verse conveys the same injunction with these words, "They should cast their outer garments over their persons [when abroad]." These verses may be subject to interpretation, but veils, head coverings and bosoms are specifically mentioned.

Jos A. Quesada, Mississauga, Ont.

VIGILANT ON CHEATING

ON THE HARP of Canadian assumptions, we take issue with the assertions contained in "The great university cheating scandal" (Cover, Feb. 22). The article contained an assertion that we believe significantly affects the way readers interpret the problem. Can't the groundbreaking study by academic experts

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF BARACK OBAMA

Anonymous "smash up" artists created an anti-Hillary Rodham Clinton, pro-Obama campaign ad, based on her 1994 Apple ad, and distributed it on YouTube. Obama's camp denied any involvement, but the San Francisco Chronicle called it the 2008 year's "most stunning and creative attack ad yet." On Sunday, MySpace launched a new channel where presidential candidates can host personal pages. Obama quickly garnered a whopping 67,000 "friends," leaving his foes in the dust.

Good news

Control issues

Revolution may not be often cited, used to describe Canadian federal budgets, but there was one important aspect of this week's fiscal plan that might qualify: Stephen Harper was elected, in part, on a promise to decentralize government and hand more power back to the provinces, and this week's fiscal good on that commitment. Rather than muddling up provincial jurisdiction, with grand plans for cities, child care and higher education, the Conservatives agreed to hand the money to their provincial counterparts. After decades of federal intrusion in provincial politics, that's a key promise kept, and one that will have major implications for years to come.

Stability surge

On the front lines of military of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, stability over the war continues to dwindle. A new poll of Americans found that just 15 per cent have confidence in the campaign, down from 33 per cent in 2001. Still, there were massive grounds for optimism this week when Gen. David Petraeus, the U.S. military commander in Iraq, told reporters that George W. Bush's "surge" policy is showing "early signs of success." With the recent influx of troops on the ground, he said, there have been fewer terrorist attacks. He predicted that by early June, there would be enough U.S. troops in place to finally get a "good grip" on the security situation. Perhaps President Bush is finally getting it right.

Hands across Hens

Canadian donors have been engaged in a massive campaign to tag off war over Iraq. Hasidim in the High Arctic for decades. In 2005, businessmen asked if they

claimed the island with drilling facilities. Now, it is a valuable site of mineralization, and some from both countries are proposing to build a joint weather station on the island later this year. The technology would function to collect important data on wind patterns and water salinity. "I visited my Danish colleagues," one Canadian scientist told the CBC, adding that territorial disputes are the concern of politicians. We contacted his magnanimity. But he's still our island.

FACE OF THE WEEK



A WOMAN greets her a relative who was killed on Monday in a earthquake that exploded in a 2008. At least 100 are dead.

Guess who's landed

It was a disappointing 2006 for the Philadelphia Eagles, the city's beloved pro football team, but things are looking up for the real Philadelphia eagles. Wildlife authorities reported last week that, for the first time in more than 200 years, a bald eagle's nest has been found in the City of Brotherly Love. The state began a campaign to reintroduce the eagle in 1981 when the population had dwindled to just three nesting pairs statewide. That number is now over 115—and the sight of a pair in the city means the campaign is on track.

Lossing faith

While American citizens divided over how best to proceed in Iraq, Iraqis are beginning to think they'd be better off leading for themselves. A poll conducted by the BBC, ABC News and other media outlets found that just 18 per cent of Iraqis have faith in the coalition forces, two thirds feel that reconstruction efforts have been ineffective, and over half think attacks on coalition forces are justified. In Afghanistan, civilians are losing confidence in the coalition forces.

Bad news

to protest Stephen Harper's unwillingness to commit to the Kyoto accord, but their newly displayed only turned their up the wrong sentiment that eco-activists are sure. Meanwhile, Elizabeth May, the leader of the Green party and its only name brand candidate, has announced she will run in the next election in Peter MacKay's riding of Central Nova. Choosing to run against a candidate she has no hope of beating is not only a dismal strategy, it's unbecoming to admitting she's not a real candidate.

The end of funny

Despite the fact that our appetite for TV comedies is higher than ever, the entertainment industry seems to have lost its capacity to generate funny one-liners. A new study by media ad buy firm Media Global found that only one of the top 10 TV comedies currently running in production King of Queens. The one-including Seinfeld, Friends, and Everybody Loves Raymond, are recycled fun, played heavily in syndication. Looks like it's time to ship another batch of Canadians to Hollywood.

Save the G

It was an eventful year for Canada as the World Cup arrived. But for the people of Canada, the governing body for alpine ski racing in Canada, were "shocked and disappointed" last week with the news that the sport G may be dissolved. The sport G may be dissolved in a separate event from the World Cup calendar. The announcement was made especially disappointing by the fact that Canada's title Cup brought home the third place medal in this event at the finals in Lenzerheide, Switzerland. Why can't they get rid of something we're bad at?

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Paul G. Smith, MD, FRCPC, FRCPC



FINANCE MINISTER FLAHERTY

WOW! AN EXCLUSIVE WITH THE PM ON MY FIRST DAY!

When Jim Flaherty delivered his 2009 budget, there was a frenzy in the House foyer as journalists jockeyed from column to column. The spot was crisscrossed with live TV broadcasts, which added to the chaos (not to mention the stress of it). O.K., a side effect of the hot light. When Stephen Harper exited the House amidst the madness, he was surprised to see there was only one member of the media waiting for him: **Chen Campbell**, CISM television's newest anchor from London, Ont. Campbell sat hunched by the government door, clicking a blurry picture from his camera, when "I looked up and there's the Prime Minister. We looked at each other and he said, 'Totally a!' And just kinda laughed and he struggled his shoulder. So we all laughed and he walked on up the stairs with all the other members and the wife. I was completely caught off guard." It was Campbell's first day on the Hill. He had been told his job that day was just to shadow other reporters.

Budget day is so important there was a gel taped over one of the two windows above the door so the PM is always appearing down. The gel began with these horrific smells with two much

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON THE INTERN'S BUDGET SCOOP AND DION'S WIFE'S LONELY VIGIL

white light pouring in, which often makes it worse when it comes. The picture slowly came on budget day the rest of the year camera crews have to put up with the fact that most MPs come down the staircase in the afternoon, just as the bright sun beams in. She was facing windows and other blows out the shot or even the lack of heavenly light. It's rarely a flattering shot. Photographed on the staircase, politicians also appear plumper than usual because they're being shot from below.

When the PM and Flaherty came down the stairs in budget day, they gave a thumbs-up. Flaherty had to speak for an hour, going through five glasses of water without a bathroom break. Capital Day is aware of this was part of his newly announced National Water Strategy. Through the week-end, there were a wife, Justin Stricker, wearing a lovely burnt orange top, sat with a teacher present at another vote empty leader of the Opposition's Gallery. On the other side of the House, Mitchell Raphael, Harper,

seating flaming purple, in a packed Speaker's Gallery. Opposition MPs were busy highlighting their flash copies of the budget. Carolyn Bennett, unyielding, Emily Fyfe and her son, Belinda Stronach and an orange highlighter, which was surprising since she only keeps boxes of pink highlighters in her office.

Since it's all about the shoes on budget day, one couldn't help notice that Toronto Liberal MP Maria Shiwon was his rubber palette over his dress shoes all afternoon. He says he doesn't like taking them off because he rubs loss the other people steal them. He also likes the fact that they provide some insulation in the cold. And for the finance minister's keynote address, "They're late to the show," Flaherty said, "They're not good." "These people are not."

I SWEAR, IF ONE MORE MAN...

When it comes to political blogs in Canada, women are hugely under-represented, but



BLOG EXPERT RAPHAEL

they were there three times as much as men. In an upcoming article to appear in the *McGill Journal of Political Studies*, Daniel Krauss, a fourth-year political science student at McGill University and the Liberal's National Youth Campaign chair, examined political blogging and gender by sampling from a blog index of three academic journals: *Blogging Women*, *Bloggers*, and *Bloggers*. Krauss found men post almost nine times more than women, but women post longer entries.



In her paper, Raphael writes, "Women make up slightly over 15 per cent of the blog-sphere's bloggers. This is almost a perfect match to the link-tracking data that found, of the most popular blogs, only 14 per cent were blogs leading to sites of feminist bloggers." Raphael told Capital Day, "Women need to get blogging," before adding, "and I think it's great they wear more than men." ■

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa and Hill or to contact Mitchell Raphael, visit mitchelraphael.com

Did you hear the one about the fiscal imbalance?



PAUL WELLS

The senior president for Stephen Harper's policy of the "fiscal imbalance" lies in the history of satire, not federalism, although it can be hard to tell the two apart. In 1958, Jonathan Swift published an alternate production of the satirist John Partridge would be several weeks hence. On the supposed day, Swift published a second alternate version of that Partridge had indeed appeared. It did no good for Partridge to insist he was still alive, since people never did believe him.

And so, 150 years later, Stephen Harper has done the fiscal imbalance with a two-part strategy: (1) announce he would fix it, (2) announce he's fixed it. What has actually done seems irrelevant to his success. Those of us who never believed there was a systemic fiscal imbalance worth fixing can stand easy. Harper could have addressed any fiscal problem with real changes that caused real damage. Fortunately, the fiscal imbalance being diagnosed, all Harper needed to make it go away was more disapp.

The "fiscal imbalance" was sold in the years after the federal Liberal-led coalition's budget in 1995, to help begin Ottawa's and the provinces' ability to pay for their respective costs. Bernard Landry was the boss at defining the imbalance. He liked to say, "the money in Ottawa, the needs are in the provinces."

Except, as most serious analysts kept saying, none of this made a grain of sense. Not only did "money" in Ottawa's deficit-increase very little—the provinces had access to the same tax sources as the federal, and could easily raise their rates (and, because low rates wherever they wanted—"needs" was pretty slippery word, too. Only Ottawa, for instance, had to pay down a very large federal debt incurred, in part, to fund generations of provincial programs. It was only the Ontario Liberalists who argued, several provinces

(and Stephen Harper's Canadian Alliance) accused them of overtaxing Canadians.

The deeper criticism was that the Liberals were using their supposedly greater money-raising clout to spend on "boutique programs" in areas of provincial jurisdiction. There were few areas to which they would turn back whenever Jean Chrétien put money into things like a national health care computer database, rather than just giving them the cash and letting them make the choices.

Along comes Harper's critique. The review for his budget in Quebec, an estimate. La Presse's editorial was in Alan Dubeau announced that the budget "was the disaster of the fiscal imbalance." It was not "stable, clear, predictable and equitable" funding and ripe

for Social Transfer, infrastructure spending, and the Canada-EU Trade. With Equilibrium was written over Pierre Trudeau's creation (as when Harper was just eight years). The Liberal's spent a decade running them up. The 1995 budget forecast social transfers would reach \$73.3 billion in 2002-03. In that year, they reached \$73.3 billion, a 60 per cent increase over projections. From that high base, the 2007 budget forecast \$35 billion in social transfers for 2008-09. Actual transfers in that year were 18 per cent higher. Harper's increases are wildly in line with those made by Liberals.

Meanwhile he continues Liberal programs. The "Canada-EU Trade" is the new name for



Harper's solution for the fabled 'imbalance': (1) say he would fix it; (2) say he has fixed it

with "an awareness change of course in Canadian political life." That's because unlike the Liberals, Harper's Conservative "must" over the central governments, don't believe Ottawa has an answer to everything, believe that the provinces have an important role to play, without federal intrusion."

Really? Equilibrium accounts for half of Harper's purported \$31 billion-a-year, after 2008, it's impossible for Ottawa or any province to know whether it will grow or shrink. How is that stable or predictable? Quebec, with 24 per cent of Canada's population, gets 46 per cent of the new money. Ontario gets 24 per cent. British Columbia will lose it all. How is that equitable?

But it's Dubeau's claim of "an enormous change of course" that makes him do believe in "federalism" is that is simply false. What are the tools Harper uses to buy fiscal balance? Equalization, the Canada Health

and Social Transfer, infrastructure spending, and the Canada-EU Trade. With Equilibrium was written over Pierre Trudeau's creation (as when Harper was just eight years). The Liberal's spent a decade running them up. The 1995 budget forecast social transfers would reach \$73.3 billion in 2002-03. In that year, they reached \$73.3 billion, a 60 per cent increase over projections. From that high base, the 2007 budget forecast \$35 billion in social transfers for 2008-09. Actual transfers in that year were 18 per cent higher. Harper's increases are wildly in line with those made by Liberals.

To be clear, most of Harper's specific measures on federalism are harmless or even helpful. What they aren't is new. They do no violence, except to the credibility of people who claimed to take the fiscal imbalance seriously. Small loss. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/bknews/elliott

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MITCHEL RAPHAEL
FBI PHOTOGRAPHY

FLAHERTY and Flaherty back in this special lighting room for budget day. (Left) where Chen Campbell





'I remember I promised to turn in an assignment late, and never got around to it. I've felt guilty about it for 30 years.'

NOBEL WINNER CARL WIEMAN TALKS TO TONY KELLER ABOUT LEARNING, CHEATING, AND WHY HE CHOSE UBC OVER BIG U.S. UNIVERSITIES

On June 1, 2007, Nobel Prize-winning American physicist Carl Wieman left his laboratory at the University of Colorado to take up his new job as head of the University of British Columbia's Center for Innovation Science & Education Initiative, a multi-year effort to study how students learn, and come up with better ways to teach.

Q Many critics say universities either have lost their way, and are quickly under-achieving undergraduate teaching, or they make it their goal to do that. And to their credit, many of us do this sometimes?

A It really isn't the primary reason. One reason we do it is that we can do it a really better job, just think the problems aren't primarily the ones you point to. It is true that universities neglect what we do on research here, but I don't believe they ever did a very good job in teaching. So I don't see it as getting them back on track, but feelings completely new way to do something they've never been able to do.

Q So even though universities and professors in the past may have focused more on teaching, that doesn't necessarily mean they did a better job of teaching?

A That's doubly right. One of the things that's changed over time is that we've got research now that's giving us some new insights into how things like teaching can be very engaging for students, but when we test it out, students aren't learning any science from that: they're just being entertained.

Q Do you strive to be an active university researcher to be a good university teacher?

A No, I don't think so. I think you have to have had some serious experience at some point doing research, being actively involved in doing science in order to be able to effectively teach you don't have to do it every day.

Q Is there a conflict at all between teaching and research? Universities, particularly large research universities like UBC, stress the idea that the more professors research, the better they're going to be at undergraduate teaching. Because that's not a complementary and there's no conflict. Is that absolutely true?

A That's exaggerated. There are 14 hours in a day if you're spending time teaching, working on teaching, talking with students, you're not doing research. If you're spending time in a research lab working with graduate students, you're not teaching undergraduates. You are trading off time. It's a balance, but universities do both, they provide value to society in both areas. If you want to have a different system you could spend a lot more money on separate research institutions, but that's not the way society is set up these days.

Q Another thing many large universities are pushing is the idea that professors should teach their research—that professors' research interests should be a big part of the course curriculum. Does that make sense?

A It's one of the main issues that we're doing. At very very few places really do it in a serious way. I'll give you an example: supervising undergraduate research is almost never

counted as part of the regular teaching load. The only thing that counts in the teaching load is how many hours you do in front of a class, and to me that's just stupid.

Q That does turn the professor's research into the more complicated value issue? Most of their research is very useful. If any professor had taught their research I would have learned a lot about the world from it.

A Right. It doesn't make sense. It's focused on teaching their research. That's actually getting to be an equally different point, one that's fundamental to the changes I'm trying to make. What we should be trying to teach isn't about information, it's about ways of thinking. If you need information on anything, these days you can just go and look it up. What you need to know is what information is useful, how to look up, how to interpret the information, etc. So, when we're talking about teachers teaching their research, that's a little bit out of the window. But what is a supervisor at that level? That's a scientist going about finding those things.

Q Are students rightly complaining about the quality of teaching at universities?

A Yes and no. We have data that show that students who study in any of our wonderful teachers, they're not actually learning from them. Over the past couple of decades we've learned that some traditional teaching practices are actually not effective, and students are not learning to think like scientists from them.

Q Can you give me examples of teaching practices that students like but that don't necessarily work?

A Let me give you one that I think about a lot, and that's often cited. Students would like a small seminar, more personalized than they'd like a professor who knows their name and chats with them. On the other hand, that's a whole lot more expensive, and society isn't ready to pay for that, and so the question is, is that essential for actual learning? You can have a large class in which there are way too many students for a professor to know the students individually, but you can have those students learn a whole lot. So that's an example of something that made no sense, it might make them happy, but it's not improving education.

Q Does class size matter?

A You can have a small class in which there's everything learning, and you can have a large class in which there's a great deal of learning. I'd be easier to make things work in small classes, but conceptually it's not going to happen, so let's figure out how to make large classes work well.

Q Students at smaller universities, particularly small universities that are undergraduate focused, tend to say that they're more satisfied and they're having a better experience. Is there anything to that?

A It's hard to say. I mean, I know everybody likes something out of their personal and their more individual treatment, you get to know them and so on. And that does happen better at small places, and so people are happier. Whether the actual education they get is better is quite a different question, and finally that's not something students are necessarily in a position to evaluate, at least while they're going to school. So, like 20 to 30 years down the road, how will senior teaching at UBC and across North America be different?

A I think not to be cynical? This one should be a little bit the legacy will be that students will see these changes in much more conflict, really challenging. And I want to suggest that that's not necessarily a bad thing. There's plenty of a scientific dialogues, but they'll see these changes in a different way. They'll walk out of them really thinking differently, understanding that they have new skills, new data to think about problems, understand the world around them, apply this scientific understanding and logical problem-solving skills. They'll find that every different problem they'll actually be very seriously intellectually engaged your whole time.

Q And why UBC? You're a Nobel laureate. I assume you could have gone anywhere.

A There are whole bunch of reasons involved in trying to change institutions, particularly

ones as big and traditional as universities. When I moved out there factors, and when I looked at places my wife and I thought would be reasonable places to live, UBC came to the top of the list. Relative to big, public universities in the U.S., they've got stable, sustainable admission rates. A typical U.S. university president has to resign every two to three years, and it's a highly political position. You just can't have a real university mission anymore. One feature I often point out is [UBC's] football coach got paid like a university professor, not like, 10 times the university president. People just don't realize that college athletes at public universities [in the U.S.] has become so dominant that the governing boards, the presidents, are thinking about the success of the football team first and undergraduate education second.

Q I think I thought about the fact that college sports might have played into your decision.

A It's really so crazy. You go to a U.S. university and you look at what fraction of the governing board there is spent on athletic stuff as opposed to the rest of the university and, you know, it might be 50 percent.

Q And the NCAA, which is the American Athletic Union, some Canadian universities are looking about joining.

A And UBC is one of them. I assumed we'd found out.

Q Do you notice differences between students at the University of Colorado and the students you've been seeing at UBC?

A At my first impression are the students are a little more... I'm trying to think of the right words. It may be one of the differences in the national culture, but the students across the board with athletic ones but I think they're more in the U.S. being, when lectures the students still show up later, and they don't complain as much, and they come to class still at one way that I think at U.S. schools is not so common.

Q "Definitely." Would that be the right word?

A Well, that's exactly the right word.

Q I think about another character. One final thing, a few weeks ago, we ran a survey on changing at universities, based on a study that suggested that more than 10 percent of senior faculty are retiring. Is that a serious problem at universities?

A I depend on what you call a problem. If you're talking about designing teaching education, I'm not so sure it is. If you're talking about students getting grades they don't deserve, then probably yes. I know some students are cheating, and you could spend half

time worrying about it if you wanted to. But what I've come to realize is that if you're putting the students in a situation where the only thing they see as the purpose of being there is to get that answer on the test and get that grade, then to them whether they do it by copying off somebody else's exam or by working out themselves, there are no differences. If the only purpose of being there is to get that number, you just get that number, so what difference does it make? But when we work quite actively to convince them that that's not the purpose of being there, and to demonstrate very explicitly that the purpose of their being in that class is to learn certain things that are of value, once you do that—and we have a little bit of data to support that—the cheating goes way down. Students



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make them really cheating themselves. So, from my perspective, the important thing is to make students recognize—and to make it true in reality—that there's an inherent value in the education and that they see what they're doing as valuable and therefore, you know, just trying to get answers by cheating is not something they want to do.

Q So I have to ask you, as a student, did you ever cheat?

A I remember I promised I would turn in an assignment late and I never got around to doing it. And I've felt guilty about that for the last 30 years. ■

ON THE WEB: For exclusive audio video and transcripts visit www.macleans.ca/tonykeller

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

THE FAMILY GUY

The Conservative budget leaves business feeling neglected

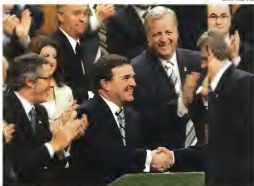
BY JOHN GORDON AND PAUL WELSH

Federal budget day produced at least one moment of unprecedented nostalgia. It came when NDP leader Jack Layton, eyes filled with old-school social-democratic outspit, declared his party would never vote for a budget that proved "the priority for the Conservatives appears to be these around the boardroom table, not the kitchen table." The line was a throwback to the days when editorial cartoonists drew Tories in smoking suits and bankers' vests. But budget '07 was a boardroom top? In fact, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty had served his old pals on Bay Street more ropes, left over when he was in the tank forking out billions to middle-income parents—the storied Tim Hortons secretaries, Canadian Tire art, whose very names trigger uncontrolled sobbing among Conservative election strategists.

These priorities are hard to come by, but it's a safe bet that whoever offers politicians ropes at a meeting has smaller goals of voters in targeted Ontario suburban ridings than do middle-class program parents. So cynical eyes detected campaign fodder in Flaherty's announcement of a permanent tax break for parents with children under 18, a measure that will cost Ottawa \$3.3 billion over its first three years. By comparison, his budget's top business tax break, a five-year rate offer for small business owners to write off equipment faster than usual, will pay a piddly \$1.9 million.

And the federal treasury Minister Nancy Hughes, Anthony Gendron's old Canadian Chamber of Commerce, was unimpressed. "The accelerated write-off for research is not a good thing," she said. "But, frankly, how a business man of view, that was about the only thing that you could say would help in the productivity year."

Was Flaherty's slight budget speech made too inattentive of it? It is in the business community and among experts who study corporations, many argue Canada should be fighting desperately to boost productivity. Our disadvantage is not how badly we're doing: Canada now guarantees \$9,200 less in



FLAHERTY and Harper are setting to win over huge swaths of traditional Liberal voters

goods and services per person than the U.S., up from a \$7,100 GDP per capita gap back in 1981 (corrosal formula). The soundings the alarm tend to fall into two groups: Economic conservatism argues Canada's con-

THE TERMS 'COMPETITIVENESS' AND 'PRODUCTIVITY' WERE BANISHED FROM BUDGET SALES PITCHES

omy needs lower taxes and less government spending to free up more of the country's wealth for productive investment. Innovation policy weeks will focus more public support on infrastructure, education, and research and development, along with policies to spur companies to rely more on limits and less on reward incentives.

Flaherty's budget didn't mount a full-scale attack on either front. Instead, he poured money into family-friendly tax breaks, along with a huge increase to transfer to the provinces. There is no mystery about why these are Prime Minister Stephen Harper's two main campaign priorities: Settling the so-called

fiscal imbalance with the provinces, a big issue in Quebec, is easier to sell into the traditional Liberal franchise in the party of national unity. And in his traditional party to assemble a Conservative majority for the next election, Harper needs to woo over the big middle of traditional Liberal voters, especially in Ontario. Many of these potential voters will benefit from the new job-creation credit: "We made a choice," Flaherty said. "We chose to support hard-working families."

The Tories also chose to make the pitch to parents as an investment in the next election, the package for jobs was a bad to delay it. Quebec in the big winner in the deal, in line to collect 10 billion in increased transfer over the next three years. So it was no surprise when Flaherty told Gilles Duceppe, primarily declared his MP would vote for the budget while bringing the Liberals, the budget would to keep the federal and NDP off balance by spending a bit on a lot of easy-to-defend fixes. Cynics charge? Nothing major, but a \$2,000 rebate for buying fuel-efficient cars. Canadian culture? Nothing major, but \$1.5

million for historic and three-down football. It's the family tax break, though, that Tories are counting on to make a lasting impression. After all, not a relief overtax, since U.S. middle-income earners are supposed to be very better off. Actually, the gap tends to be bigger between rich Canadians and rich Americans, since income

inequality favouring the wealthy is greater in the U.S. For families stuck in the middle, the difference isn't so pronounced. Median family income for couples with children in both countries is about \$70,000, measured in the home currency, although adjusted for what's called purchasing power parity, the U.S. family is still about 13 per cent ahead in terms of real buying power.

Still, even Flaherty's conservatism's clinging to the past he needs to have helped out that demographic. It's just that, perhaps a little surplus, they thought he could also have delivered the sort of pro-business, pro-productivity shift expected of Conservative finance ministers. "There will be no measures for growth or productivity," Hughes

Archibald said. "The fact that there was no broad-based fiscal was disappointing." John Williamson, federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, echoed that complaint, and pointed to a perhaps surprising model Flaherty should have followed—the five-year, \$18-billion tax-cutting Liberal budget that finance minister Paul Martin brought down in 2000. "The 2000 budget was individual and business rates across the board," Williamson said. "They didn't want to have their hands tied in the middle, at just the bottom."

A Conservative strategist, who asked not to be quoted by name on the subject, said the terms "competitiveness" and "productivity" were all but banished from budget sales pitches. The very words are supposed to trigger fears among middle-class voters that what the government really has in mind is enough medicine for the rich, and benefits for big business and the wealthy. Indeed, when asked if he would be the boardroom table when they do back cutting taxes, he said he would offer people who want to generate growth by investing in good economic policy, although maybe not good politics. "I recognize that voters aren't going

to go far and relief only for the top income earners," Williamson said. "That's why you need relief up and down the income ladder." Hughes Archibald makes the case in terms of accounting, noting that while the top U.S. personal tax rate is as high as 35 per cent, Canada's top rate, which is even higher, is as low as 28 per cent. "When you are trying to attract a terrific doctor or a great academic," she says, "they look at these tax rates and say, 'Wacky uncle!'"

Flaherty did even promise from some long-vacant lobbying for a productivity push. Roger Martin, chairman of the Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity, welcomed the budget high marks for investing 6 per cent of new spending in areas like education and infrastructure that should spur future growth, unless that most gut budget item—current consumption, like health care and social services. Martin also approves of Flaherty

★ THE TOP 10 ★ EXPENSIVE ITEMS IN THE '07 BUDGET

- 1 New child tax credit
\$3.3 BILLION
- 2 Social transfers to provinces
\$2.8 BILLION
- 3 Equalization to provinces
\$1.8 BILLION
- 4 EcoTrust
\$1.5 BILLION
- 5 Working income tax benefit
\$1.3 BILLION
- 6 Helping Farmers
\$1.2 BILLION
- 7 Faster write-offs for
manufacturers
\$735 MILLION
- 8 Infrastructure
\$650 MILLION
- 9 Tax break for single-career
families
\$620 MILLION
- 10 Patient wait times guarantee
trust
\$612 MILLION

Source: www.cbc.ca
2006-12-06/07 Budget 2006-08 table

they're positive to set up a competitiveness report's panel to study the issue. "It's significant," he said, "that there is an understanding of the need for enhancing future productivity." The panel is supposed to report by the end of next year's budget. Maybe by then, dependent on the federal election, the political moment will be right to for serious action. ■

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play here inside the collapse of Maurice Duplessis' nationalist, rural conservative Union Nationale in the late 1950s. Or the ADQ could cut into the Liberals' support in those three-way ridings, and pave the way for premier Bernard Lord's return to office at ending history books as well as either by becoming one of the new Quebec premier to get dumped after just one term or by leading a minority government—something not seen in Quebec since the 19th century. Whatever the outcome, the Quebec political landscape will never be the same again, says Jean Hennin-Guy, a political scientist at Université de Sherbrooke. "Quebec politics moved on two different planes. Now, one of those has broken in two," he says. "The Régime d'union is losing appeal. A conservative, federalist party may see this as a big change in the province's political culture."

As the advance voting polls closed earlier this week, the fiercer day was former Quebec voters who had failed to vote on a red hot ADQ. People like Michel Fréchette, a communications expert, astute political observer, and a lifelong PQ supporter in Montreal. "I was still a sovereigntist but not a PQ supporter," he says. "I wasn't yet ready to go away in Canada." Fréchette says Bourcier's PQ was unable to channel the high level of nationalist sentiment with the Quiet Revolution. "Bourcier was able to jump them both under the 'old project' banner."



CHARIST and Bourcier. "Old partner" boss to jump them under the 'old project' banner.

Voters, Fréchette says, are now "prepared to mobilize the dock in Quebec." And who wants to say long-term bear that Stephen Harper's Conservatives? In the 1990s, the Conservative party died in Quebec and was replaced by the Union Nationale, says Guy. "In the 1990s, the old UN died, and the Parti Québécois emerged. With the rise of the ADQ, we may be witnessing such a seismic change."

The leader's em-PHA-sis problem



Don is working with a speech pathologist.

BY PHILIPPE GOSSET • A recent Angus Reid survey confirmed what many Anglophones already knew about Stephen Harper: The Liberal leader doesn't always get his message across when he's speaking English. Only 56 per cent of Anglophone respondents rated Don's English as either "good" or "very good," while 43 per cent said it was downright poor. That put him at a considerable disadvantage to Stephen Harper when it comes to second languages—the Prime Minister gets a passing grade on his French from an overall rating of 81 per cent of French phone respondents.

Don has readily acknowledged he has a hard time figuring out which syllables to emphasize when he speaks, and is working with a speech pathologist to correct the problem. In the meantime, his handlers have taken to capitalizing those syllables on his teleprompters when he delivers a speech.

Fred Gosselin, a psychology professor at McGill University who specializes in bilingualism, may have an easier solution: simplifying Don's often convoluted messages. "The more complex the message, the more complex the vocabulary and the grammar," says Gosselin. "It then becomes hard to control the situation because you're busy trying to find your words and construct your sentences."

Don can at least take comfort in another of the survey findings: although Anglophones may not like his command of his second language, they're far less likely than French speakers to make an issue of it. While 73 per cent of native French speakers said it was very important for the PM to speak their language fluently, only 57 per cent of Anglophones felt the same way. Still, Gosselin thinks that the overall high assessment of Don's bilingualism may be hiding a deeper anxiety. "It's not just his English that they're paying attention to," he says. "They're judging him."

Alberta pulls half-pint employees

BY NIKOLAS ROHMER • On St. Patrick's Day, as Calgary's many pubs brimmed with patrons, inside and on the choreographed patio, many sang merrily. The trouble? A shortage of bar staff so critical that Alberta's provincial government last week introduced a novel—some might even say overly refreshed—approach to helping proprietors: letting children as young as 12 work in bars.

The plan didn't last. Hours—literally—after the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association, an industry lobby group, circled in email outlining the new rules, which permitted bar staffs staff between 12 and 27 years old provided their duties kept them in the kitchen and away from alcohol, the provincial government backed off. Premier Ed Stelmach and his deputies hadn't even known of the changes, a spokesman said Friday.

It was the Alberta Federation of Labour that leaked the industry memo, and sparked the **RULES WOULD HAVE SEEN CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 12 WORKING IN BAR KITCHENS**



Kids would have seen 12 in bar help.

Still, Alberta's food industry where 11,000 workers, according to Mark van Schellerveld, the industry lobby's VP for Western Canada. Kids would have helped—even if just a little. "If they didn't see the front of the house and they're in the kitchen," says van Schellerveld, "they're really not much of a difference between a kitchen—and a kitchen." And anyway, children younger than 16 were never intended to work in bars. By blurring moral standards with what amounted to a grudge contest, the labour group was able to make "politeness" of the whole issue.

What was missing from the debate was any consideration to the real victims of the below-the-radar—those pushed Alberta's patrons and their kids outside bars in sudden loss of St. Patrick's Day, unable to order green beer. ■



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WHERE ARE THE WAR CRIMINALS?

Authorities look to South America in the hunt for fugitive Serbs

BY ISRAEL VINCENT • The International Court of Justice ruling in late February, absolving Serbia of direct responsibility for genocide perpetrated during the 1992-1995 war with Bosnia, may actually be the biggest boost to capturing two of the former Yugoslav's most wanted war criminals. It gave reform-oriented Serbian officials more political clout in their efforts to aid the UN tribunal seeking those arrests. Stressing that the capture of Serb war criminals is crucial to securing a place for Serbia on the EU and relieving the country of its pariah status, President Boris Tadić intensely urged renewed calls for the arrest of war-crime Bosnian Serb general Ratko Mladic and for

among NATO's own members in the frustration as to why the two fugitives, the odds probably failed to result in any arrests.

Karadzic, said to be hiding either in Bosnia or Montenegro, has the protection of a network of supporters of various money through racketeering and drug trafficking. For his part, Mladic lives in Belgrade until January 2006, protected by powerful comrades, according to testimony given during the recent trial of 11 people accused of helping him.

According to Srebrenica Nikola, one of those accused of helping Mladic and a former lieutenant colonel in charge of security, Mladic lived for a time in the army barracks in the poor Belgrade neighborhood of Dorćol, and had the protection of the Supreme Defense Council, one of whose members was the then president of Yugoslavia, Vojislav Kostunica. In May 2002, when the Yugoslav government

an important haven for Nis was infamous. Mladic, a low-level soldier nicknamed "Dead" by his comrades in Kosovo (where, among other atrocities, he killed an ethnic Albanian family after a cease-fire was in place), was arrested in May 2005 in the Argentine in exile. He died of complications from AIDS and cancer before he could be extradited.

According to Argentine authorities, Mladic had visited Argentina using a false passport in 2003. The 41-year-old fugitive claimed he had worked as a secretary in Adria, prior to moving to South America. In Argentina, he ran a pizza parlor with money borrowed from one of his Argentine girlfriends.

But it was the August 2005 capture and extradition of Lukic, leader of the reform in Vukobratovic's military, that focused attention on the region as a haven for Serb war criminals. Lukic, who was arrested in 1998

SERBIAN PRESIDENT Boris Tadić (center) and Mladic, Karadzic, and Lukic (from left)



over Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. Both are wanted for war crimes and genocide by the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Tadić urged his fellow Serbs and his own government to co-operate in handing over Mladic and Karadzic, who have often been hiding in plain sight in Serbia and Montenegro thanks to a group of powerful autocrats who view the two men as heroes. They are wanted for, among other atrocities, the murder of more than 8,000 Muslim men and women in July 1995. It is imperative that they are captured in advance of a 2008 deadline imposed by the UN for the ICTY to finish its trials. (The court has until 2011 to hear final appeals.) If the cases shut down, all arms war-crime will become irrelevant.

So far, international efforts to capture Mladic and Karadzic have been fruitless. Just before the international court ruling, NATO troops raided the homes of Karadzic's son and daughter in Pale, close to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo. After years of sniffling

power, the law authorizing extradition to the Hague, Mladic was sheltered in a handful of homes in the high, leafy apartment, offered plots, surgery and forged travel documents. For three years, between 2002 and 2005, he was driven around by army officials in a used Yugo, and given the use of a housekeeper, groceries and phone cards.

It is, however, no longer clear if Mladic remains in Serbia. Following the 2005 arrests in Argentina of Nikola Mladic, wanted for war crimes in Kosovo, and Milan Lukic, the ICTY's third-most-wanted fugitive after Karadzic and Mladic, some Serbian officials are keeping a close watch on South America, which was also

by the Hague tribunal for murder, rape and sexual violence during the war in Bosnia, was found living in the best neighborhood in Buenos Aires. Among the atrocities he has been accused of committing is the rape and sexual violence of Muslim women, and burning dozens of Muslim women, children (in one instance, including a two-day-old baby) and elderly men into houses and ransacking them.

How Lukic arrived in South America, where there are large Serb communities in São Paulo and Buenos Aires, may provide clues to the whereabouts of other Serb fugitives who seem to have disappeared from Europe.

Lukic lived quite openly in Serbia after the



BOLIVIA: HISPAN TIPS FOR LOCAL SYMBOLS

Laurels are not something Bolivians associate with their country, yet they appear on their coat of arms. Now the government of President Evo Morales is proposing to replace such European symbols with indigenous ones. These include native animals like the llama and the condor. And the least likely would be replaced with coca leaves, a stimulant used for centuries by Bolivian peasants. Unfortunately, coca is also the main ingredient in cocaine.

AP PHOTO BY GUY LAWRENCE; DIMITRI LUTENBERGER/REUTERS; MARIO PEREZ/REUTERS





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Roman war. He made a living from drug trafficking and racketeering, and was prosecuted by Niccolò Simon Laski, the former Serb deputy interior minister, and later by Karadzic's Prosveta network, a drug-smuggling ring that protected Karadzic and his boss. In around January 2001, Laski and Prosveta members began to quarrel, while his cousin Laski was removed from office soon after and deported to The Hague for his role in Kosovo war crimes. Poka started Laski's family home in Vrsalje and moved to his brother Nikola, who was innocent. In September 2004, following Hague pressure for the Serb government to co-operate in Laski's capture, he was sentenced to 10 years in a Serb court to 20 years in jail for his role in the abduction, torture and murder of 16 Muslims in October 1992—although he continued to live openly in Serbia.

In January 2004, though, reportedly in a dispute over a drug shipment, Laski fired upon Karadzic's armed bodyguards. It was clear he was no longer safe in Serbia, and a few months later he disappeared. In April 2004, after a report of the incident was published by the Italian Investigation Reporting Network, a Sarajevo think tank, Laski responded with an angry email, pledging his allegiance to Milosevic and denying he had been a traitor to Karadzic. "Milosevic has always been and will remain the true hero and idol, and Karadzic, the leader of my people," he stated in the email, mailed to a server in Beirut.

By this time, Laski was arrested in Argentina in August 2004, was Brazilian official who did not want to be identified with that he had travelled to Brazil on a tourist visa, issued by the Brazilian embassy in his grade some six months earlier. He subsequently crossed the border into Argentina on a false passport, issued under the name Gerni Dju Karadzic. He was arrested outside his apartment building in Buenos Aires after he picked up wife and daughter from the airport.

An impartial hearing in Buenos Aires, Laski said that he planned to surrender to The Hague because he feared that Karadzic's network would kill him. "I know lots of things happened during the war, and I was afraid that they would kill me because there are many who do not want it known what happened," Laski told the court. "At the saying, you better to be a tongue without a voice."

Whether the worst fear within the other movement-related war crimes suspects remains to be seen. For now, Bosnian officials say that while they are not targeting Milosevic or Karadzic specifically, they are very interested in why, over the last two years, an increasing number of Serb nationals have been arrested on drug-trafficking charges. ■

Chávez warns allies: Go left, or go home

BY PATRICIA TREBLE • After Hugo Chávez's recent anti-U.S. rant from the halls of Latin America, the Venezuelan president has warned his American allies to change their country into a single, left-wing party, the United Socialist Party of Venezuela, the three-clashed Chavez vanguard political allies, including the Communist party, to either get on board—or go. "If you want to go, leave," Chavez told the resolute leaders on his TV show, *Mi Vida*, President. "In reality, you aren't indigenous." Criticisms, since supporters called the holdouts "traitors" for wanting the new party's ideology verified before deciding.

The fiery president can't be worried about political opponents in the National Assembly—it's packed with supporters after critics boycotted the 2005 parliamentary elections. Plus, on Jan. 31, the assembly gave Chavez the power to rule by decree for 18 months as he creates a new "social and economic model" that will ensure "the equal distribution of wealth" in the oil-rich nation. But empty grocery store shelves suggest that mass starvation could be a tough slog. With prices controls on goods such as sugar, milk and cheese that was below farmers' costs, this country has been plagued by shortages. Last month Chavez threatened that "bourgeois" and "socialist" could be imprisoned for up to six years. He reportedly expatriated two near-processing plants deemed not to be running at full capacity. Meanwhile, mining government spending on everything from military hard-



CHAVEZ has bought himself out of a crisis.

wire to subsidize housing (plus high inflation and a plunging oil price). So far, Chavez has used of resources to buy himself out of a local crisis, and, with typical bravado, expects his political plan will succeed. On Saturday his new party will have organizing groups suggest, "I need more women who are willing to give their very lives to drive the socialist revolution." ■

Finally it pays to be old in Turkmenistan

BY ADAM INTINI • Having climbed out from under the death of a narcissistic dictator, the citizens of Turkmenistan are feeling rather happy these days. Kaprizi, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who took over the leadership of the Central Asian country after "president for life" Saparmyrat Niyazov died of a heart attack in December, signed a Code of Social Guarantees restoring old-age pensions, cancelled under the previous regime, and introduced new social benefits—providing



BERDIMUHAMEDOV gives seniors a break.

a much-needed boost to Turkmenistan's standard of living, currently mired in a dismal 195 out of 177 by the United Nations.

Berdimuhamedov, a former doctor who has been married to his wife, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, has pledged to continue the traditional policies of his predecessor. During his two decades in power as the former Soviet republic, Niyazov developed a cult of personality at his rural North Kazakhstan farm (he is called "the father of the nation"). He built schools, hospitals and villages—even the month of January—in Turkmenistan bear his name and honored, among many other things, butter, gold and such a modest taste.

Berdimuhamedov's recent political record, however, indicates a much of an approach to governing. Since he took office, new Turkmen government officials, fired by Niyazov, are back at work, unrestricted access to the Internet has been made available to the public for the first time, and the number of years children are allowed to attend school has been extended. Under the new law, 100,000 citizens will have their pensions reinstated (Niyazov had stopped payment in February 2004) as persons for families of Second World War veterans are getting a substantial hike. Now, new members will get a lump sum for each newborn and 150,000 manat (\$12) a month for the first 18 months of each baby. By the time these kids are adding, maybe Turkmenistan will have cracked the top 100. ■



Canadian tycoon Calvin Ayre is living a life of frat boy dreams, just ahead of U.S. authorities
BY CHRISTOPHER SHULGAN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY NAOMI HARRIS

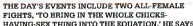
indulgence under his Budgasmunglass, the 47-year-old Apré is on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica to attend a day of filming for his raised-marital-arts TV show, *BiologyFights*, which is broadcast in Canada on The Fight Network. His arrival is a distorted helicopter shot is disambiguated by bulls' proof of literature to the set. It's a training location—a boxing ring, set up on the beach, and surrounded by the Pacific surf. Apré's Biology logo unearths everything from the fighters' 'konekcia to the

Ayre and his girlfriends are featured onscreen often through the day's filming. "There's Calvin Ayre," says the announcer. "The reason we're all here today: Calvin Ayre is the man!" As an announcer stops his breath and periodically applies makeup, Ayre sits on an elaborately cushioned dais, constructed of deflated and galas friends. Just as once we missed the Hammer and the girls and everything else, just to be extra sure we just that Ayre is the star of this show, the chief Radio in drag as a throne.

DURING THE LAST YEAR, Ayco's share has received 900 billings in a different drama, one with a decidedly not-so-much-to-be-Wing—less sales, higher raises. Since it first began trading here in 2000, Ayco's trading has become one of the largest online gambling companies catering to the U.S. market. It was a big industry, with worldwide revenues of about \$22 billion a year in 2009, half of that generated from the U.S. market. (All figures in U.S. dollars.) Trading was well saturated—not the

Problems was, the U.S. Department of Justice said it was illegal to accept wagers over the Internet. Technically, in Canada all gambling is illegal except for specifically licensed instances, such as provincial lotteries and casinos. However, legal experts say it's unclear

BODDICE EVERT. *Rare's latest venture takes*



Allief, which lugged the Nisio, who passed a law last year to make it tougher for these dissenting groups to obtain the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act took effect in 2006.

ment of cables that bypassed U.S. financial institutions that prevented paralingual transactions. Also last year, the U.S. Department of Justice began accusing executives who worked for online gambling companies. The first, David Carruthers, the CEO of London-based Betonline PLC, was indicted at London's Trafalgar Square on a laptop on his way to Costa Rica on charges of tax evasion and racketeering; after several court appearances he's still being held in the States under house arrest, ankle bracelet and all. More recently, just as the company was to send millions from betting on Superbowl XLII, American authorities in January indicted the two Canadian founders of NFLite, a \$1 billion public

Where does the presently held Bodegón sit? At all? Ayres controlled the online gambling conference he threw annually in Las Vegas, then followed the rest of the industry in announcing the refurbishing of his expensive efforts to Europe and Asia. Ayres also is moving his operational headquarters and residency to the former British colony of Antigua. Unlike Costa Rica, its government has declined to extend a willingness to protect its online



A Month-up copy of his cover appearance for the 2006 *billboard* issue of *Forbes* magazine features a large slab of wall space in the



LEGALLY DUTIFUL copolators is no stranger to Calvin Aye. He was born in 1961 and raised in Gaylord, Mich., the second of four children of Kent and Wilma, a Southern Baptist. Aye and his mother were the only people who made their living as grain and soybean farmers. The couple lived off an entrepreneurial interest in their children by making them a liter of pigs to raise each year. When it was selling time, Calvin and his siblings kept the cash—an excellent lesson in maintaining a business, he says. When Aye was in Grade 6 he was firmly moved to B.C.'s Okanagan Valley, where Kent Aye founded a water purification business. After high school, Aye worked for a year at a logging depot in the University of Washington's Native Wetlands, for free school, but his father's name, he says, got him laid out in the fishery year. In 1985, when Aye was 23, his father, Kent, and several brothers became embroiled in a marijuana-irrigation scheme. The plot

Asked about the incident, Ayres says only "I was in university at the time." He would soon leave his own legal entanglements behind. In 1980, Ayres had just finished his M.B.A. at Seattle's City University when Paddy Blanton was paroled from prison. Ayres had gotten a job as president of an oiling line valve manufacturer, a *Weyerhaeuser* Systems, then listed on the Vancouver Stock Exchange. Ayres lived as a boarding house in a hotel, Robert Knott from *Canwest*, Eric Blumhardt, a notorious Vancouver stock promoter who had just been paroled from a seven-year sentence for fraud, for falsely inflating the share prices of a half dozen Vancouver Stock Exchange companies. Re-

While it's easy to see Reddy, the company got out of an investment Ayre made in the wake of a stock-trading debacle, in the mail box, just as the Internet was revving its economic gears. Several Vancouver outfits were setting up e-finance portals to attract signers but over the Internet. Selling himself as a software consultant, Ayre secured a couple of contracts to build programs to run the betting sites, then began licensing his program to other companies. His biggest deal, he says, was a \$4 million contract with a Vancouver outfit called Cyberbet. But as he whipped his program into shape, he realized there was far more money in running a gambling site

Is he still a billionaire? Well, that's complicated. On his own frequent press releases, Ayn's name is, as editors must find it without the adjective "billionaire" preceding it. And since the crashdown, Bodeg has clamped down on the financial information it discloses so any discussion of his networth is strictly a guesswork. But for what it's worth, "The



Perhaps in the meantime, he'd better get comfortable in that pain-baked throne. ■

EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK

MOTHER AND CHILD DOING FINE BUT TEAM ISN'T
University of Minnesota at Kearney women's basketball coach Kasey Ross isn't too into a game. Last week, five hours after giving birth to her first child, Kasey Ross was out cheering her players on. She'd traveled to Kearney, Neb., to have her baby early because that's where the team was playing, and after watching her Legends lose to North Dakota she said her team looked tired in the second half. Then added it was something she could relate to.

EMPLOYEE
WEEK

Watching the odds on the Black trial

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • Few experts lined up with the Conrad Black trial are daring enough to venture a guess on the outcome. After all, Black's is a trial by jury, and a jury can be a fickle bunch—though as a trial as the way it plays interests with the judge can affect a juror's decision. But those who read congressional would do well to watch the action on *Inteleview*, an online prediction service that allows traders to bet on anything from the outcome of American



Conrad Black isn't the only one who's in a tight spot.

legal trials, like Black's fraud trial, or even the next Canadian federal election (traders currently have the Conservatives beating the Liberals).

Inteleview has a track record of almost always being right. In the last U.S. election, the site successfully predicted the outcome in every state. In a prediction to what might happen in Black's case, *Inteleview* recently predicted the outcome of the Scotiabank-Libby trial—on the last day of trial, traders on the site had the odds of a guilty verdict at about 70 per cent (Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, was found guilty on four of five charges).

Inteleview's success relies on the number of people who use the site to bet, buying or selling shares at evenhanded prices. "They get into the wisdom of crowds in the way opinion polls don't seem to," says *Inteleview* CEO John DeRose, from his office in Dublin, Ireland. One of the advantages of the market is that the value traders put on the outcome is constantly in flux, reacting to new information as it comes out, just like a stock market. "The question is, are they the best available mechanism for aggregating popular but uncertain answers? We believe they are," says DeRose.

At the beginning of the week, on the early days of the Black trial, there was no trading yet. But the lack of early action may have something to do with the complexity of Black's case—there's little financial incentive to bet on such an uncertain outcome before any evidence has come out. But as the trial progresses, hundreds of shares will likely trade hands, and hundreds of thousands of people will race to *Inteleview* for a pretty accurate picture of Black's fate. ■

Imploding lenders and toxic loans

BY PATRICIA THORPE • The Mortgage Lender Imploded-o-Meter website, an online analogue, isn't quite as funny as it sounds. It has nearly 500,000 hits a day, but it's a serious website that has decided to test since Dec. 31 any way, to track the growing list of American mortgage lenders "that have crumbled over the last week." At the beginning of this week the number was at 41, up from 13 in just two weeks. A recent addition was New Century Financial Corp., in a fiscal meltdown after its own lenders stopped loaning it cash.

As the housing market sizzles across the U.S., the country's subprime mortgage sector is particularly vulnerable. In the past few years, as the economy boomed, lenders paid higher risk borrowers, offering co-signers with no down payment and only one way income checks. Now, with interest rates up and many loans automatically resetting to higher monthly payments, owners are in trouble. Last Tuesday, the Mortgage Lenders Association said that 379 per cent of subprime mortgages were either past due or in default, compared with 1 percent of all home loans. And the pain is beginning to spread

that, yesterday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 542 points and General Motors jumped \$1.15 billion to its former owner's arms to deal with mounting problems.

While the bad news has been somewhat muted in the Kansas-dominated state of Lawrence and Manhattan, even booming states like California aren't immune. More than 20 per cent of subprime loans are expected to fail in Los Angeles and other cities in coming months. *Active Topicals*, a mortgage in California, says the market hinges on an estimated US\$400 million in adjustable rate mortgages that will mature over the next two years. His worry that "any kind of sharp pullback in lending could lead to a vicious spiral of continued housing price depression and defaults." It's the same fear keeping millions of Americans up at night. ■



Analysts fear a flood of mortgage defaults.

Loblaws: Clean up in aisle seven

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • When Loblaws Co. released its first annual report last week, it not only marked the first loss for the Toronto-based grocery company in 19 years—\$716 million in the red, for the last five months of 2006 alone. It was also a chance for Loblaws management to make insurance headlines from the sins of their predecessors, a move known in financial circles as "the big bath."

And what a bath it was. Loblaws' loss was primarily the result of a massive \$800-million writedown of the value of its Provigo stores in Quebec, which it acquired in 1998.

The report was contrite, offering some telling apologies, with a subtle message: "don't blame us." "The organization is more complex and less responsive than it should have been," a statement read. "Loblaws lacked the structured agility and vigour to address its changing environment." This, of course, is not only unapologetic for the loss, but also for last September's management shakeup, which replaced John DeRose with former Canadian Tire executive Mark Fosse, and Glen Watson, of Loblaws' controlling Weston family, stepped up to become executive chairman.

The writedown leading to Loblaws' loss is a statement that the stores were overvalued by the most optimistic old guard, says John Chamberlain, senior vice president of Dorsey, Bond & Haring Service. "Provigo was great a year ago and is a little less great now, but it hasn't declined by as much as the accounting value has." Loblaws' accounting writedown not only lays blame on the departed, it often the new team a clean slate. "When a new coach comes in you can buy yourself a bit of time and look better your self when you go second," explains Chamberlain. As the annual report summed up: "We want 100% with a new leadership team, a resolve to restore Loblaws to profitability and growth, and a game plan for doing it. Therefore, we didn't make this decision, but we'll fix it." ■

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2007 University Student Issue

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NEW, University news from campuses across Canada and commentary from the leading voices in higher education, updated daily. Plus advice to help you plan your education, including Maclean's exclusive Postsecondary University Ranking Tool. ALSO browse photos of campus food, residence food, and campus style from universities across Canada—and upload your own video and photos. Visit macleans.ca/university



What can 70,000 students teach you?

We asked. And students said that some of Canada's most prestigious universities are leaving them less than impressed.

BY SANDY FARRAN AND TONY KELLER

In 2004, the Ontario government commissioned former premier Bob Rae to prepare a report on post-secondary education. Itaring concerns about the quality of undergraduate education, Rae called on Canada's largest province to establish benchmark data on "key aspects of higher education," and the "evaluating and publicly reporting on quality and program performance." To do this he recommended that all Ontario universities participate every two years in a long-standing American student survey, the National Survey of Student Engagement, or NSSE. "It was a great belief that if you can't measure, you really can't make change happen," Rae recently told *Maclean's*.

One way of measuring universities is to ask the opinion of their customers: the students. Are they satisfied with their education? Their professors? Their choice of university? To try to answer those questions, we present the results of three national student surveys: the NSSE, a Canadian survey known as the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC) and a survey conducted by *Maclean's* to cover off the small number of universities that took part in neither NSSE nor CUSC. Most of these results have never before been made public.

More than 70,000 Canadian students participated in these three national surveys, across nearly every university campus.

NSSE and CUSC ask each dozen of questions about specific aspects of the undergraduate experience—inside the classroom and beyond. Both surveys were commissioned by the universities themselves. NSSE an

American survey that 26 major Canadian universities took part in in 2006, focuses on student engagement. Most of the questions asked on NSSE are an attempt to find out how students are spending their time and how "engaged" they are with their schools, their professors and their peers. It is mostly about asking students what they do, not how they felt about it. NSSE does include a few satisfaction questions, however, which you will see featured on pages 31 and 32. The NSSE surveyed and evaluated students in first year and fourth year.

The CUSC survey also looks at detailed aspects of the undergraduate student experience, but takes a slightly different approach. Unlike NSSE, it includes many questions asking students to state how satisfied they are,

STUDENTS AT SMALL SCHOOLS ARE GENERALLY HAPPIEST, BUT THERE ARE SOME BIG EXCEPTIONS

and where they would like to see improvements. The 2006 CUSC survey was conducted amongst a sample of 1,000 graduating-year students at participating universities.

There are quite a few Canadian universities that did not take part in the 2006 CUSC or NSSE surveys. To provide readers with feedback from their students, *Maclean's* asked those universities to create their students to take part in a web-based survey based on the CUSC, using CUSC methodology and CUSC questions. Eight of the nine universities agreed.

Of the 47 universities appearing in the annual *Maclean's* ranking of universities each fall, only Université de Moncton did not take



part in any of the three surveys. It is not listed among the charts. The other university that is missing is York. It took part in both NSSE and CUSC, but the university has so far declined to make public its results.

So what do the surveys say?

Overall, students at smaller, undergraduate-

oriented universities say they are generally more satisfied than students at larger, research-oriented universities. There are exceptions to this trend, with larger research powerhouses such as Queen's, Guelph, Western and Waterloo getting high marks from their students. But on the whole, small schools

tend to do much better than larger institutions.

When the CUSC survey asked students, "how your experience at this university exceeded, met or fallen short of your expectations?" a substantial majority at all universities said that their expectations had been exceeded or met. However, at a surprising number of universities—all larger universities such as Calgary, Simon Fraser, Ottawa, Montreal, UBC, Dalhousie and the University of Toronto—four in five said that their university's experience had fallen short of their expectations.

Similarly, on the NSSE, in which both first- and final-year students took part, two broad satisfaction questions also elicited high overall positive responses, and not just at smaller undergraduate universities. When asked to "evaluate their entire educational experience," a majority of students answered either "excellent" or "good." However, while more than a third of students at many universities were willing to describe their educational experi-

THE SURVEYS: WHAT THEY ARE, AND HOW THEY WERE DONE

You will find results from three surveys in the following pages: the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC) and the Maclean's University Student Survey. The NSSE and CUSC surveys, which were commissioned by the university sector, ask more than 100 questions about specific aspects of the undergraduate experience inside the classroom and beyond—descriptions involve universities with data to help them analyze strengths and weaknesses. On the accompanying pages are the responses to several key questions.

Launched in 1994, CUSC is coordinated through the University of Manitoba's department of housing and student life. In 2006, 25 universities took part, sending surveys to a random sample of approximately 1,000 senior-year undergrads at each university. A total of 10,464 students responded.

The U.S.-based NSSE began as a pilot project in 1999 and is distributed to first- and senior-year students. In 2004, 11 Canadian universities participated for the first time with 14,267 students completing the survey. Last year that number had grown to approximately 40,000 students at 31 Canadian institutions taking part.

New institutions ranked in the annual Maclean's University Rankings have not participated in either the 2006 CUSC or NSSE surveys. To provide student feedback from these institutions, Maclean's asked them to take part in a short survey using questions drawn directly from the CUSC questionnaire, elaborating such issues as the quality of

teaching and the overall educational experience. Eight of the nine universities agreed (Université de Moncton declined). CUSC wording was followed and CUSC methodology was also employed. Participants in the Maclean's University Student Survey were randomly selected from students currently in their final year. Universities contacted selected students by email, inviting them to participate. Large universities contacted 1,000 students; smaller universities, with fewer than 1,000 students in their graduating year, surveyed the entire cohort.

The survey was conducted online by Angus Reid Strategies and was active from Feb. 14 to March 12. To ensure that only those who had been chosen could take part, each individual was assigned a unique PIN. These PINs allowed Maclean's to identify students by university while guarding their anonymity.

The Maclean's survey achieved a 43 per

cent response rate with 2,880 students from eight universities taking part. The results when presented for all universities are accurate within 1.52 per cent. 31 times out of 20, individual institutional accuracy varies from plus or minus 5.06 per cent to plus or minus 8.84 per cent.

The Maclean's survey asked only eight questions from a much larger CUSC survey. As the Maclean's survey questions were not asked within the context of the larger CUSC survey, the inherent context ordering and placement bias may have been different in both surveys. The survey had earlier relied upon the comparability of the Maclean's results to the CUSC results, since reweighting calculations across an extensive battery of specific questions can result in lower reliability on scores than when asking fewer, more general questions. We have, therefore, chosen to present the CUSC and Maclean's surveys separately.

THE CHARTS

The charts published on the accompanying pages list the 26 Canadian universities that Maclean's ranks among that participated in the 2006 NSSE survey as well as the 23 ranked universities that took part in the 2006 CUSC. For most charts, universities are listed in descending order, according to the percentage of survey participants who choose the highest level of satisfaction when responding, for example, "excellent." When displaying the NSSE benchmark charts, universities are listed according to the benchmark scores associated with their senior-year students.

The NSSE and CUSC surveys include more than 160 questions, but we have published eight. Two from NSSE and six from CUSC are the most general and summative of all student attitudes. The Maclean's University Student Survey is modelled on eight of the broadest CUSC questions. For space reasons, not all charts are displayed here. For a full review of the remaining charts, as well as data from past editions, CUSC and Maclean's surveys, please visit our website at www.macleans.ca/university.

NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (NSSE)

The NSSE survey asks undergraduates dozens of detailed questions—as well as some broader ones—as to how they engaged with their schools, their peers and their peers. Hundreds of American universities, and a growing number of Canadian institutions, participate in the annual survey. Listed here are 18 ranked Canadian universities that took part in 2006.

HOW WOULD YOU EVALUATE YOUR ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT THIS INSTITUTION?

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



NSSE 2006*



* NSSE 2006 benchmark reflects the overall result for 557 Canadian and American universities.

SENIOR-YEAR STUDENTS



* NSSE 2006 benchmark reflects the overall result for 557 Canadian and American universities.

once an excellent, fewer than one in five senior students at Dalhousie, Lakehead, Laurentian, Laval, UBC and Ottawa were willing to give their education top marks.

When asked, "if you could start over would you go to the same university?" the majority of students at all universities answered "definitely yes" or "probably yes." Once again, the trend favoured smaller universities, but some larger universities also did well. For example, fourth-year students at a number of universities with a wide range of master's and doctoral programs gave their schools grades above the NSSE average.

But by the time they reach fourth year, fewer students at most universities were willing to say that, "definitely yes," they would choose the same university. For example, Ottawa's score went down from 36 per cent to 17 per cent. Even top performers Queen's and Western both declined from 49 per cent and 47 per cent to 40 per cent. It seems that students are, for whatever reason, gener-

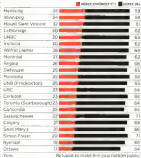


WILLIAM L. BRYAN

CANADIAN UNDERGRADUATE SURVEY CONSORTIUM (CUSC)

Quality of teaching and the overall learning environment are of vital importance to the undergraduate. Most students responded positively to questions assessing faculty, with those at smaller schools being the most satisfied, particularly when asked about professors being reasonably accessible outside the classroom and being encouraged by their profs to participate in class.

MY ACADEMIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES AT THIS UNIVERSITY HAVE BEEN INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING.

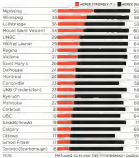


McGILL'S UNIVERSITY STUDENT SURVEY

McGill conducted its own survey among the following universities asking the identical question as CUSC



GENERALLY, I AM SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF TEACHING I HAVE RECEIVED.



McGILL'S UNIVERSITY STUDENT SURVEY

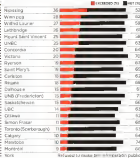
McGill conducted its own survey among the following universities asking the identical question as CUSC



CANADIAN UNDERGRADUATE SURVEY CONSORTIUM (CUSC)

While students were happy about reporting on their own university's teaching, faculty and other campus activities, in the whole case showed satisfaction with their time at university. Students at small universities were somewhat more satisfied than their large school peers. Overall, 56 per cent would recommend their university to others.

HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THIS UNIVERSITY EXCEEDED, MET OR FALLEN SHORT OF YOUR EXPECTATIONS?



McGILL'S UNIVERSITY STUDENT SURVEY

McGill conducted its own survey among the following universities asking the identical question as CUSC



WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS UNIVERSITY TO OTHERS?



McGILL'S UNIVERSITY STUDENT SURVEY

McGill conducted its own survey among the following universities asking the identical question as CUSC



Carl Weimer, Nobel Prize winner in physics and director of the Carl Weimer Science Education Initiative at UBC "But one should not automatically assume that the best policies are to follow everything students say they would prefer." (See our new Fall interview with Weimer on page 12, or learn on the web at mcgill.ca/weimer.)

For example, argues Weimer, the finding that students in smaller universities tend to have higher satisfaction levels than those at larger universities may not tell us anything about the quality of education. "I know every body has something nice to say about their school," says Weimer. "And that does happen better at small places, and so people are happier. Whether the actual education they get



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL KELLY

is better is quite a different question, and frankly that's not something students are necessarily in a position to evaluate, at least while they're going to school."

For NSSE participants, the key results are not the answers to the satisfaction questions, but the school's performance on the pattern of benchmarks, measuring "engagement." NSSE assumes that engagement is a core element of quality, and a measure that can cause more and better learning is likely to be taking place.

Each university participating in the NSSE receives a benchmark report comparing scores from First- and Fourth-year students on key questions with those of other participating universities, including all of their Canadian



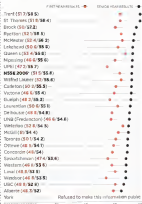
PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL KELLY

NSSE 2006 BENCHMARK COMPARISONS

NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (NSSE)

NSSE created benchmarks to compare performance in five key areas across all universities—American and Canadian—taking part in the 2006 NSSE survey. Level of Academic Challenge addresses the intellectual and creative demands on students, and includes such areas as number of assigned readings, written papers and reports, as well as coursework that emphasizes judgment and transforms information into a new complex interpretation. Student-Faculty Interaction gauges professors as resources, measuring how often students meet with faculty to discuss career plans or ideas outside the classroom or work with them on research projects or other activities outside of course requirements.

LEVEL OF ACADEMIC CHALLENGE



*NSSE 2006 reported results from 187 Canadian and American universities



STUDENT-FACULTY INTERACTION



and American peers. The key questions are then grouped together in five broad benchmark categories, each with an overall benchmark score. Level of academic challenge is based by students, amount of active and collaborative learning, quality of student-faculty interaction, availability of enriching educational experiences, and supportiveness of the campus environment.

So what do the benchmarks tell us about the undergraduate learning experience at Canadian universities? For starters, Canadian universities at both the first- and final-year level compare quite well to their American peers in the benchmark area "level of academic challenge" and "supportive campus environment." The academic challenge measure is made up of scores on questions in such areas as "number of assigned read-

books," "number of written papers," and "coursework that emphasizes analysis of the basic elements of an idea."

However, all Canadian universities participating in the NSSE scored below the NSSE benchmark average on the "student-faculty interaction" benchmark (see table, page 36), and were also behind their American peers on "active and collaborative learning" (see table on university for the benchmark figures not presented here).

Why? In 2004, a handful of Canadian universities participated in NSSE for the first time, and showed the same low scores. They came down to nothing more than that resources. Canadian universities have fewer "two-surgery," says Chris Conway, director of institutional research and planning at Queen's

university. Given the resource disparity, he expected his institution and others to be behind their American peers, but not to that extent. "That was our first-hand empirical evidence that showed recurring patterns on those aspects of learning that are directly related to student-faculty interaction." Can also universities do poorly on these benchmarks, relative to their American peers, because the Canadian institutions, with smaller per-student budgets, have fewer professors for each student.

A growing number of Canadian universities are taking part in NSSE, and Bob Fox is not the only one pushing a greater distance on its findings. "We want to be really good and give the best that we can to our students and don't just what does it," says Harvey W. Gatten, president of the University of Calgary. "It drives our behaviour, it drives our resource allocation, it's why we do things like NSSE, that's why we listen to what NSSE has to tell us."

Many universities prefer NSSE to CLSC, and are less comfortable with the load of a student satisfaction question that CLSC asks

books," "number of written papers," and "coursework that emphasizes analysis of the basic elements of an idea."

They are "roughly combined, but not particularly well," says NSSE engagement scores. "But he doesn't use satisfaction scores as being as useful as the more 'empirical' measures of NSSE. "Students have to be taken with a grain of salt," says Conway.

For example, a student at a primarily residential university, with all the social life and student interaction that implies, might be more satisfied that someone is a commuter school. And, given that they attend a small, residential school, NSSE results might also indicate that they are more engaged. Conway cautions against making too much of student satisfaction data. "On average, Canadian students are reasonably satisfied and that's a good thing. I wouldn't make buy-out of what appear to be 'minor differences'."

Despite Queen's high standing in satisfaction surveys, Conway cautions that satisfaction scores aren't always useful, because they are highly dependent on the expectations that students have going to a university. As a result, he says, questions of satisfaction may not be comparable among universities. "If high expectations are made as first-year students respond accordingly. If they have low expectations and nothing happens to subvert that, then students show the relatively consistent satisfaction scores." Conway doesn't reject satisfaction questions, and admits that

provision. UBC handbooks. Wherein to study and reform the teaching of science in the undergraduate level. And many universities are introducing new ways to deliver first-year programs that give students a chance to experience small seminar-type settings that are more often associated with upper-year courses. These small learning groups are particularly important at large universities where first-year students often sit in large lecture halls with hundreds of others, rarely getting a chance to ask a question or discuss ideas with the professor or fellow students. In fact, 70 per cent of Canadian first-year students told the NSSE that they have never asked a question in class, compared to just about 20 per cent of their American peers. All Canadian universities are trying to address this problem.

For example, the University of Toronto recently started first-year Learning Communities (FLCs) in the faculty of arts and science, bringing together groups of 24 students in the same sections of first-year courses on a regularly scheduled meeting facilitated by an upper-year peer mentor. The meetings include social, developmental and academic programming. In addition, a staff and faculty adviser attend the meetings.

Even though universities rely heavily on surveys to improve the quality of the undergraduate learning experience, some universities still refuse to make this information public. While universities declined to provide this data, Maclean's filed access requests through provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation. Several universities related details as a result of the requests. As we want to present only the CLSC and NSSE results we were able to track, that request is still pending in many cases. We will be publishing these results when they become available. ■



17 PER CENT OF FIRST-YEARS HAVE NEVER ASKED A QUESTION IN CLASS. THE U.S. FIGURE? 3 PER CENT.

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For additional information on the NSSE, CLSC and Maclean's surveys, as well as data from all surveys, please visit our website at www.macleans.ca/university. Also on our website, read more about our ranking using the Personalized University Ranking Tool. Build your own assessment of universities from our exclusive database of 24 indicators drawn from the 2006 Maclean's university survey findings.



ON HOT FACULTY, LATEST TEACHER HIRE: Allison Dube has won three Excellence in Teaching Awards, but still makes only \$26,000 a year

It hurts when you call me professor

They've got Ph.D.s. They're paid like fast-food workers. And they're your teachers.

BY SAREY FARRAN • Allison Dube is the kind of professor who greets students by name even though his classes often have more than 100 people. He regularly extends his office hours and provides his home number so students can reach him at any time, and he uses words like "tough," "joy," "adventure" and even "love" when describing the "enjoying journey" he takes with each new class. By his own admission he "sounds like a still-living card." It would be easy to dismiss it as rhetoric if it weren't for the fact that his students express similar sentiments when describing Dube in course evaluations: "I would like to come from Dr. Dube even if I was issued a life sentence," says one student. "My vocabulary does not contain adjectives

positive enough to describe Dr. Dube's teaching," says another. The 44-year-old University of Calgary political science lecturer has won three consecutive Excellence in Teaching Awards.

And yet Dube does not have a full-time faculty position at Calgary, known in tenure or tenure-track status. He probably never will, although he would desperately love this opportunity. He is a part-time instructor/assistant lecturer in a sessional lecture, co-acting faculty or contract academic staff, who taught on a per-course basis. His pay is low: \$6,150 per three credit or half course. Last year, he made just over \$16,000, about a quarter of what a professor his age at Calgary makes. He also has no job security, no pension and few benefits. He is part of a large and growing group of academics who refer to their status as "the invisible faculty."

Over the past 20 years they have seen a dramatic increase in the use of contract academic staff at Canadian universities. Critics

argue that university administrators are doing it primarily for one reason: it's cheap. "They don't pay them regularly, they don't get benefits, they don't have the same access to offices and other kinds of things," says Jiri Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). Turk calls it "a response to the federal and provincial governments."

Anecdotal evidence from Canada's campuses suggests that the percentage of classes taught by sessional faculty is high and growing. At the University of Saskatchewan, 120 sessionals constitute a third of the under-graduate classes, according to the union representing part-time workers at the university. At Carleton University, there are almost as many part-time sessional lecturers as full-time assistant staff, according to the most recent figures available for the fall of 2005. In an interview with *Maclean's*, the president of the University of Toronto, David Naylor, said about 22 per cent of his university's courses in the humanities, social sciences and sciences are taught by sessionals.

National numbers don't exist, because each university maintains its accounts in different ways. Some include graduate students and research assistants, some don't.

report figures at all. The most recent Stats Can numbers available show that there were 28,200 part-time faculty hired by universities in 1997-1998, a growth of nearly 10 per cent since 1996. During the same period the number of full-time faculty hired by universities decreased about eight per cent. StatsCan stopped collecting this data years ago, because "part-time faculty" was defined differently by each university, making national numbers arguably meaningless. "It's almost embarrassing when people ask, 'What do you mean you don't know how many faculty you have?'" says Bob Trueman, director of institutional analysis and planning at the University of Waterloo.

For the bigger picture, experts look south of the border. According to the American Association of University Professors' 2002 survey, the proportion of tenured and tenure-track faculty members at U.S. universities is divided from about 17 per cent to 15 per cent, while the proportion of those not on the tenure track has grown from 35 per cent to 65 per cent during the same period. In Canada, now, there appears to have been an increase in the size of sessionals.

For the past four years, George Williamson has been a part-time philosophy lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan. The most he has earned in a year is about \$15,000 teaching two three credit courses in the fall and one course in the summer. To help pay the bills, some sessional faculty members do more than one university. Williamson doesn't have that option. Instead, he works part-time at a call centre in Saskatoon taking care of calls for Marlin Hotels. "Ideally I'd like to settle somewhere and get research done and teach at a reasonable level of pay," says Williamson, 42, who did his first two degrees at Saskatchewan and a Ph.D. at the University of Warwick in England. Last week, members of CAUT asked the part-time union staff Williamson belongs to, voted 78 per cent to go on strike if their employer does not table a better offer, particularly on wages. Saskatchewan sessionals earn between \$8,000 and \$9,125 for a six-credit or full-year course.

Sessional pay at all universities is considerably below the salaries of full-time faculty, ranging from \$6,000 to over \$12,000 for a full-year course, depending on the university. In addition to wages, part-timers have significantly different working conditions than regular faculty. Assembly rooms or office space, a telephone, e-mail, library privileges, photo copying and a computer are not necessarily available to non-tenure academics.

Williamson chuckles when describing a construction trailer that for three years he used as an office, until the university finally upgraded him last fall. "Occasionally the



AS MANY AS A THIRD OF COURSES AT SOME UNIVERSITIES ARE TAUGHT BY SESSIONAL LECTURERS

heater broke down, and at the far end it had a hole in the roof that was fixed." In an effort to help sessionals find him during office hours, Williamson passed a map of the campus on the whiteboard beyond a row pointing to the trailer. He used a computer that a friend had lent him and he shared a phone. His new class is in a building.

This year, professor David Wood is teaching two full-year English courses, one at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., and

another at the University of Toronto in Mississauga (UTM). He is part of a large group of academics who jokingly refer to themselves as "radicalism" or "gag" scholars. Every Monday morning Wood teaches a 9 a.m. class at Trent and then hits the road for a more than two-hour drive to UTM in the afternoon. He has a similar schedule on Tuesday. He's taken on fewer courses this year because he's doing research on his own time, an attempt to produce published work that will get him off the sessional treadmill. When he's at Trent, Wood generally holds office hours at the Student Union Plaza, because the office he shares with several colleagues isn't ideal for private discussions. "It really isn't so hot for constant comfort," Wood says of his working conditions at Trent.

When Wood meets with his director or co-ordinator, he's knowing until the last minute if he has a course to teach. "If they

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get a last minute surge of people enrolling at the end of August than the call goes out," says Wood. "You don't want the universities to know that you just hired a prof a week before the course starts."

Does any of this affect students? Most educators might find it difficult to distinguish between part-time and tenured faculty. The difference in the classroom is not always apparent. But when asked, academics identify three broad areas where not only students but also faculty lose. Arguably the biggest loss is in the halls of the university academic freedom. "If you're on a fixed term, limited-course contract and somebody powerful doesn't like what you are doing, they don't have to fire you, they don't have to discipline you, they just don't renew your contract," says Tark. "Once you have a significant proportion on contract you change the whole character of the institution." In the U.S., the shift toward non-tenured academics and respect on academic freedom has been one of the most serious overruns in higher education.

Another area of concern is the pay. So-called otherworldly academics often teach more than a full-time load for more than one

semester in order to make a living that's a fraction of what a regular faculty member makes. As a result, part-timers are often as burned out as it sometimes hard for them to prepare for class or meet with students. Finally, part-timers aren't given funding to keep on top of their field, publish and research. That may be bad for students, it's

GEORGE WILLIAMSON TEACHES PHILOSOPHY—AND MAKES ENDS MEET BY WORKING AT A CALL CENTRE

certainly bad for students. When a non-tenured job opens up, they can't compete because they have no publications and no research, and faculty are hired overwhelmingly on research, and their potential to do more research. Once someone gets on the seasonal treadmill, it's hard to get off," says Tark. "After four or five years you get locked into a job ghetto that you can't get out of."

Allison Dube at Calgary is a victim of the seasonal cap. Last year he applied for a research track position in political science and he was shocked to learn that he hadn't even made it when he lost a job at a call centre getting that job," says Dube, who doesn't

believe he has done little research since graduating from the London School of Economics in 1984. Given that Dube earned \$36,000 last year, a higher salary would have made a big difference. A bigger disappointment was not getting an upper year course he "tremendously enjoyed" the department for that would have been and many students—some who write letters asking for the course with Dube as the instructor—he taught at three previous courses.

Even especially grating when, at the Teaching Excellence Award ceremony where Dube was honored, the vice president addressed about the university's plan to reject all non-tenured teaching. "If the kids are asking for the course, and they are really serious about learning, why not say, 'give the poor sap \$6,000 to teach this course,'" says Dube.

No one argues that part-time instructors have no place at the university, particularly in programs where a certain level of practical expertise is necessary, such as journalism or business. And there are many students who are happy to remain teaching on a part-time basis. University of Toronto president David Naylor says that concerns about seasonal faculty are related mostly to undergraduate programs in the humanities, social sciences and sciences, where they tend to be more heavily employed. He would like to see a reduced reliance on seasonal, but believes they still have an important role to play to ensure that they are effective teachers, this is a new situation," says Naylor. "It helps enthusiastic young instructors into the classroom, while letting universities be more responsive to students' shifting interests."

That said, Naylor recognizes that some individuals return to seasonal lecturerships over and over again as they look for more permanent positions. To that end, the university has developed two categories identified as Seasonal Lecturer 1 and Seasonal Lecturer 2. Approximately 30 per cent of these teachers have been recognized to the second level based on classroom wins by the departments chair as well as student feedback. As a result, Naylor predicts that the number of students will likely fall as these people fill vacancies that come up in the tenure stream.

Despite low wages and poor working conditions, many part-timers are optimistic that things will improve. The reason: roughly 80 per cent of all non-tenured are now organized. "We are increasingly making these issues priority," says Tark. "I think we've started this development in the name of protecting the integrity of the university and our students." ■



CAPLANO: Ontario universities say that its renowned B. Math program is not a real degree.

Not all degrees are created equal

Many colleges are now offering degrees. But not all universities recognize them.

BY KEIN MILLAR - I imagine that after four years of all righters, dry textbooks, and never-ending lectures, you discover that the bachelor's degree you have worked hard to complete is not, in fact, a bachelor's degree. At least not according to some universities. Dave Cryderman found himself in the situation when he received rejection letters from the University of Toronto, Lakehead University, the University of Ottawa, the University of Western Ontario and Niagara University, shortly before graduating from Capilano College in North Vancouver with a bachelor's degree in music. He was told that to be considered for entrance into teachers' colleges, he first needed a degree from a university. "They wouldn't even open my application," Cryderman said. "They wouldn't even consider my grades for an average."

Newly married, he was eager to join his wife in Ontario, finish his training and become a high school music teacher. Two years later, he still hasn't gone to teachers' college. "Optimism for post-secondary study has diminished since 1990," says Cryderman. "I'm not sure if it's the business of living up

to the level of education, including bachelor's degrees. Around 40 colleges across Canada are now offering their own degrees. In British Columbia alone, 1,415 bachelor's degrees were granted by colleges in the 2005-06 academic year. But the increasingly diverse education market has schools—and students—all over Canada confused about what a bachelor's degree really is. At Dave Cryderman's discovery, not because your education awards you a degree doesn't necessarily mean that every one will recognize it as such.

When contemplating education options, it's important to understand how your degree will be viewed after graduation. Canada has no national accreditation system body that province has its own system for awarding the right to grant degrees, as well as separate systems for private institutions. This has led to interprovincial recognition, and acceptance for students in B.C. and Alberta, colleges have long been reluctant to participate, providing students with university-level courses that can be transferred toward a degree. B.C. and Alberta universities recognize college degrees authorized by the provinces in most cases. The B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer continues

that 40 per cent of students entering B.C. high schools transfer from a college, institute or university college. In Ontario, in contrast, colleges have traditionally been part of a system that is separate from universities, focused on applied programs and pre-university preparation for the workforce. The result is that many Ontario universities do not consider colleges degree-granting institutions and do not recognize their degrees. And yet the number of public degree-granting schools in B.C. has grown to 14, from only four in 1988. Dr. Gary Lee, president of Capilano College, knows that these new college degrees are an important addition to the post-secondary market. "Some students learn better in an applied environment with smaller classes," Capilano grants bachelor's degrees in psychology, music therapy, business administration, and human management. Although it has been offering degrees for over 15 years in partnership with the British Columbia Open Learning Institute (now called Thompson Rivers University), graduates like Cryderman only began to have problems with degree recognition when Capilano gained independent degree-granting status in 2001. "They are essentially the same degree as below," says Lee. "The whole thing is bizarre."

However, Jo Anne Brevity, registrar of Queen's University, says that students coming from colleges are not necessarily prepared to pursue further education. She explains that in Queen's experience, students who have not studied in a university environment may not necessarily have the background needed for success when they are postgraduate students. "We don't want to admit students who won't be successful. That's not fair to the student."

Lee says that this attitude amounts to "academic snobbery." He argues that these universities consider applied knowledge inferior. "All we ask is that we don't get turned away by virtue of a piece of paper at a registrar's office saying that we're not a member of some organization."

The organization that Lee is referring to is the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), an advocacy

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organization that represents 50 public and private arts and crafts universities. In the absence of a national accreditation body, many universities use AUCC membership as a facts source. That's the case at Queen's, applicants for postgraduate study normally must have a degree from an AUCC member.

Colleges such as Capilano, however, are not eligible for AUCC membership. AUCC requires that the majority of a member's programs be at a university level, and that academic staff engage in peer-reviewed research. Capilano, like many other degree-granting colleges, does not meet those requirements. This puts these colleges in an odd position: their provincial governments say they are qualified to grant a bachelor's degree, the national lobbying group for universities says they are not. There's no referee to break the impasse.

In October, Cryderman was declined an election as "teacher" college because Capilano College is not an AUCC member, not because of this individual or this. Similar cases have been reported at Mount Royal College and Kwantlen University College. "As a national," says Cryderman, "I brought a defective product." Lee responds, "We just didn't see it as a part that would be a problem." Ten to 20 years after the Cryderman case, a search of Capilano's website and calendar finds no mention of the hurdles to dean choosing a Capilano degree give encounter if they want to go on to postgraduate study.

"Provinces grant degrees, these degrees without outside review of how they would be recognized," said Dave Marshall, president of Mount Royal College in Calgary. He says it is no surprise that universities are hesitant to accept every credential.

Mount Royal College is a degree-granting college that offers 11 of its own applied degrees but Marshall does not expect his institution's degrees to be accepted at university-level bachelor's degrees and admits his students can't. Mount Royal is addressing the problem by transferring into a full-fledged university "to ensure that the credential that the student achieves is a valid [university level] credential," says Marshall.

While sympathetic to Capilano College's situation, Marshall is not sympathetic to an argument "just because it is called a baccalaureate, it should be automatically be accepted everywhere." He stresses that there are many different types of degrees with different strengths and weaknesses, some prepare students for careers and others for further study. "Institutions that are offering different types of degrees and aren't universities need to

ensure that their students understand—and right or wrong—how the degree will be seen when the student graduates," he advised. "Universities also have to recognize that there are different degrees and some of them will, in fact, hold significant value for students moving on to education and postsecondary school, even if they aren't an AUCC member."

Marshall questions whether the creation of a national accreditation body would necessarily solve the problem. "There is already an accepted set of standards as to what a university is. All AUCC does is say, if you have these things, you are a university, if not, you aren't. Would an accreditation body change those standards? Maybe an accreditation body would tell Capilano that it can't grant baccalaureate degrees. You have to be careful what you wish for."

Lee, on the other hand, is taking a different route. Capilano College is pursuing an alternative degree-granting accreditation from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities—agencies expected to take four years. "The fact that this should be necessary is a national disgrace," he says.

Although Queen's University's admission policy is under review, Marshall finally does not think there is a problem to be fixed. "There's nothing to be fixed. It is a continuing evolution of education going to go away and shouldn't. We should always be evaluating how good

'AS A CUSTOMER,' SAYS FORMER STUDENT CRYDERMAN, 'I BOUGHT A DEFECTIVE PRODUCT'



DAVID MARSHALL: Royal post-grad is a fine post-secondary degree, says our society.

"What is clear is that students need to do their homework when selecting a school. "I look at 17-year-olds trying to choose post-secondary destinations, not knowing what they want to do down the road," Marshall reflected. "But they need to think about what they want to do after their first post-secondary degree." ■



We can't stop meeting like this

Great for socializing, Facebook's perils make students worry

BY KIM HURMAN • "It isn't on Facebook, it would be like I didn't even exist socially," says Justin Vapa, a University of British Columbia student. For Vapa, the online networking site is the centre of his social life. On his Facebook profile, you can browse through his 341 friends, a whole clip of his performance in UBC's production of *Les Misérables*, his phone number and address (apartment number redacted), and what events he plans to attend this week. Vapa updates the site often enough to tell his friends he's deep in and missed class, with the mood for karaoke, and is now in the music building. If you missed Dennis and Mike's birthday party last week, you can view Tag's 577 photos of parties.

Facebook, unannounced by 13-year-old Harvard dropout Mark Zuckerberg, is based on the paper face books that are distributed at American colleges at the beginning of the school year to help students get to know each other. With over 17 million users, the site allows you to find new friends in your real world who like the same movies as you, or both of which that extend you met at the campus pub is actually easy. No longer do students have to depend on old-fashioned social techniques like going, site, point, and say, telephone. Now, from the comfort of your residence room, you can have a completely virtual social life.

Tag checks the site about 15 times a day. "It's really addictive," he says. "It's very casual and cheaper to plan what I'm doing than go

than by calling or seeing [messaging on all phones]. You can see who is coming out and what they think about it."

Vapa also uses the site to keep in contact with old friends. "This is a way to put your face through the door when you don't talk to people for a while," he claims that he is not really known all of his 341 Facebook friends even if some aren't "true friends," but rather acquaintances. "Once I found a friend of mine from the Philippines who hasn't come here, I was there five to six years ago. He lives in Vancouver and we reconnected through Facebook. That's pretty cool."

Even though Facebook is making meeting people easier, it comes with a whole new set of challenges and etiquette. Vanessa Larkin, a University of Toronto student, has seen

ONE STUDENT'S PROFILE GOT INTO THE CAMPUS PAPER, AS REVENGE. IT WAS SO EMBARRASSING.'

friends fight with their boyfriends about their Facebook relationship status. "If they didn't get anything or said that they were single, their boyfriends got really mad." Relationship status is almost a social norm, she says. "Before, should you wait after breaking up to change it? Should you wait? Think of Facebook's new find friends, everything you do on the site is broadcast to your entire network, including changes to your profile.

The new find friends scans U of T student Caren's Facebook. "It doesn't ask you what you put on your latest this morning?" she says, can posted. She also doesn't like that Facebook is now open to anyone. "I think it's better when it was just for universities. But then, my space

was the Facebook for dropouts."

Despite the fact that anyone could access his profile, Vapa posts his personal information—and recently, one day he arrived on campus to find his Facebook profile published in U of T student paper the *Gazette* and distributed all over the university. Vapa, who wrote the story, is a newspaper reporter, had made the *Gazette's* design an account issue. This was their revenge. "It was so embarrassing," she says. "After it was published in print, I realized that I didn't want all that info out there. I don't know why having it on paper is any different than on the Web, but it is."

Privacy concerns are very real. Last year, the United States Secret Service investigated an Oklahoma student when they discovered a post about assassinating President George W. Bush and replacing him with a monkey. And two students from Louisiana State University lost their sports scholarships when they badmouthed the coach online.

Terri Bedell learned the hard way to be careful about what she posts. She was fired from her job as a bartender in New Brunswick because of an exchange of wall posts with a co-worker. "I was so embarrassed," she says. "I was so embarrassed that another co-worker's boyfriend who regularly took alcohol from behind the bar, I didn't think anything of it. But apparently the manager got that quote, and made a lot of conversations."

Now that the site is open to the public, external groups are finding ways to make use of the vast network of students. Ben West, B.C. organizer for the Green Party of Canada, believes that Facebook had a large part in the London, Ont., by-election in October. Party leader Elizabeth May came in second with 16 per cent of the vote, the strongest per-

formance in the party's history. "We went group and event sites—out to people we met on the ground in Western and then they sent them to their network of friends," he said. "People joined the group and came to the events because they could see that their friends were doing it."

As the public gets used to the impact of Facebook, additional uses and features will surely emerge. The popular photo search feature is already a social networking partner with Facebook to help users find photos. Even Barack Obama organizers used it through his 65,000 member group. "Barack Obama for President," that for students like Justin Vapa, the site's one-click function that just to organize an hanging out. In fact, Vapa's current profile may be telling some Facebook's true purpose: "Justin is procrastinating... badly." ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF HARRIS

How to get a reference letter

You'll need one to get into grad school, so start early. Lesson 1: Be an annoying keener.

BY ANDREW FOTTER • With distressing regularity, anyone who has taught in a university for any length of time notices a small thing that gives something like this:

Dear Professor Smith,
Not probably don't remember me, but I was a student in your class not class last year 2006. After working for a few years, I've decided I would like to go to graduate school, and was wondering if I could possibly trouble you for a reference letter. I got a 74 per cent in your class, and I have appreciated my course during what I have been up to since I graduated. I know this is a shot in the dark, but you are the only professor I could contact, and I would really appreciate your help.

Sincerely yours,
A Student

Reference letters are a necessary part of any application to graduate or professional school, along with a writing sample, statement of research interest, standard test scores, and a transcript.

SPEAK UP AND GO TO CLASS: PROFS CAN ONLY WRITE A GOOD LETTER IF THEY KNOW WHO YOU ARE

The relative openness of each of these varies depending on the discipline and department, with grades and test scores receiving a great deal of attention to law and medicine, whereas humanities departments tend to pay more attention to the writing sample. Yet looking at all up are the ubiquitous reference letters, sometimes written on the student's behalf speaking to his or her skills, character and personality.

Unfortunately, many students shoot themselves in the foot when it comes to getting reference letters, and those who write think plain like the one above are making one of the most common errors. The first key principle to fix, don't let the path be apologetic. Writing reference letters for students is not a favour that professors give to their students, it is one of their professional obligations. Every

second semester is a bit harder to fix after the fact. The time to start making your case for a reference letter is now when you decide to go to graduate school. Rather, you need to start setting the stage for possible letters when you are still an undergrad, with your academic future still dimly imagined. This stage is built on three pillars: your course selection, your choice of professors, and your behaviour in class.

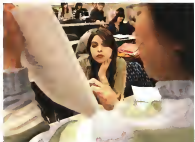
Start with course selection. It is hard for profs to get to know you as a class of 200 or 300 students, which is why you have to find at least a couple of courses, preferably in the upper years, that have a maximum enrolment of 10 students or so. Take these courses even if you aren't particularly interested in the topic, since the attention and recognition you will get from the professor will more than make up for all that cost.

Second of all, pay attention to who is teaching the class. At almost every university in Canada a great deal of instruction is being offloaded to grad students, adjunct faculty and contract workers. They tend to be young and desperate, and consequently put a lot of effort into their teaching. But they are also less-than-workers, with very little status within the profession. When you go looking for ref-

erence letters a few years down the road it might be hard to find them then, since they might be locally anywhere in the world. And even when you do track them down, chances are that they will be either still working on campus, or even out of the academic business altogether. In either case, any reference they give you will carry relatively little weight with the professor. So when selecting your courses, do a quick check in the department calendar and find out which instructors are permanent members of the faculty, and take as many of their classes as you can.

Finally, it is useful to keep one thing in mind: professors can only write you a good letter if they know who you are, what you are like, and how your mind works. It is very hard to write a strong letter for a student when they can only rely on a "so-and-so took my class and got a B+." So do all the readings and go to class. And when you are in class, ask a lot of questions. Then make a point of dropping by during the prof's office hours, and pepper him or her with questions about the lecture or the readings or the assignment. In short, be the annoying learner that everyone loves.

Reference letters are the most important part of your application, and it would take a truly outstanding letter to make up for mediocre grades or an incoherent writing sample. But reference letters are a necessary part of your application, and they signal your acceptance into a community of scholars. If you are an undergraduate student who might someday want to go on to graduate school, it is never too early to start working on getting those letters. Be as strategic and intentionally about it as possible—you have nothing to apologize for. ■



PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELYNNE WATSON

When it comes to sex, love hurts

How serial monogamy, not the one-night stand, became the norm on Canadian campuses

BY JOHN WATSON • Ignored for a moment, that sex surveys in student newspapers are overly credulous, uncritical and exaggerated. They also provide an interesting—and possibly even painful—snapshot of the sexual culture on campus. For instance, one of the findings of a questionnaire published in this year's *Victoria's* *Star* edition of the *Guarantee*, the University of Western Ontario daily, was that 70 per cent of students who had sex with a partner in the last year were married to a partner in the last year. There is, however, very little hard data available to compare the current state of student affairs.

Monica Harrington, a professor of sociology at UBC Okanagan, is doing her part to change that. Noting her own study of the sexual behaviour of undergrads at the former University of British Columbia's Kelowna-based campus) more than 20 years ago. During that time, she's conducted three surveys—in 1980, 1990 and 2000. Her most recent data reveals some interesting trends: most students are asking questions about the sexual benefits of potential partners, using condoms with new partners, and maintaining longer-term monogamous relationships. Nothing she found that students are having a great deal less casual sex. In 1980, 67 per cent of men and 54 per cent of women at Okanagan described their sexual monogamy as being "one night stand or less." In 2000 that had dropped to 14 and eight per cent respectively. "And then, more people were saying, 'I don't love

you but you seem like a nice person so why not get together!'" says Harrington. "Now, people really live in their minds whether this is someone to take a chance on. They're trying to find the person they can live with."

Turns out this drive, and the comfort level that comes with it, can hurt. Experts find that most university-aged couples use condoms during the early stages of a relationship (according to the CCHS, 65 per cent of Canadian post-secondary students reported using a condom the last time they had sex). But these students consider things to be "casual," the majority with a low birth control rate. The problem, many in this group are serial mon-

ogamists—they bounce from one "long-term relationship" to the next, making themselves susceptible to sexually transmitted diseases. "We often hear how you, I can't imagine having something anyone like John and mine were menagames we don't need condoms," says Alex McKay, research coordinator at the Sex Information and Education Council of Canada. "Ask him six months in a year later and there's good chances he'll say the same thing. But she's not talking about John anymore. Now she's talking about Bob."

And these days, many long-term student relationships have "about three months and many university students report using condoms after a month," says Robin Milhausen, the University of Guelph's senior lecturer. Last year, Milhausen surveyed 774 University of Windsor students in their first year classes. Twenty per cent claimed to have been in one or more "serious romantic relationships" already since high school, and they'd been in at least seven



'NEITHER MEN NOR WOMEN ARE VERY ACCEPTING OF PARTNERS HAVING LOTS OF EXPERIENCE'



PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELYNNE WATSON

Whom newsmagazine *Time* reported, Milhausen's first-year students say that the traditional "stair" versus "player" double standard still exists on campus. Milhausen contends that are university students don't have about as much as they need to be a single sexual standard now, she says. "Neither men nor women are very accepting of their partners having lots of experience."

That's down, in part, by four-thirds. In a 2005 study, 12 per cent (about 36,000) of Canadian post-secondary students reported having been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease. Experts say that's just a first taste of the truth, among young people live with STDs, about one in five. Some studies indicate that the incidence of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis among Canadian university students has been doubling since the late '90s. "Upwards of a quarter of university students are going to be infected with genital herpes," says McKay. "And more will have no idea that they're infected." Leaving graduates with one more thing to apologize for. ■



What degree will get me a job?

Most experts say today's young need more schooling—but there are dissenters

BY CAMERON AINSWORTH-YERGENE • Good news for students worried about finding a job after graduation: the current labour force is aging—fast. According to Statistics Canada, in 2005 some 1.6 million Canadian workers (31.1 per cent of the workforce) were within 30 years of retirement, more than double the number in 1986. Baby boomers are changing the mix across the economy. Examples: the Mining Industry Human Resources Council says that as early as 40 per cent of work in oil will leave the industry by 2010, including senior engineers and geologists. The same percentage of workers in the public sector are due to retire by 2011. In health care, nearly one-third of workers are 40 or older.

And that means just the initial wave of retiree, a tide that is expected to peak in the early 2020s. It doesn't take an economist major to figure out that with unemployment rates in a 10-year low, and the baby boomers moving on, there are likely to be ample opportunities for the next generation of workers.

Most experts believe that to land the best jobs, you will need at least a university or college degree, or a trades skill—and that for most kids that ever should be working in higher education. Ascent study by the Can-

adian Council on Learning concluded that Canadians do 70 per cent of the workforce to have a post-secondary education by 2016, a massive increase from the 44 per cent of Canadian workers who currently have some form of post-secondary education. The government of Ontario predicts that 60 per cent of new jobs created by 2009 will require post-secondary education. So C. expects their by

CONSIDER COLLEGE: University isn't the only option



"TRAIN YOUR MIND AND YOUR CAPACITIES FIRST. THE SUBJECT IS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE."

2003, 70 per cent of all new jobs will call for at least some post-secondary training. But if the common view is "get more education," what education should you get? "It is very risky to think that there is going to be a job in a certain field in five to 10 years,

and focus your whole life on trying to fill that niche," says Dan Drummond, chief economist at TD Canada Trust. "Because jobs available in five or 10 years might not be the same ones you previously thought about—they might not even exist today." James Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, notes that certain markets can turn on a dime. "In 1994 there was a desperate need for computer science skills, then what appeared to be a market shortage changed almost overnight into a desperate oversupply." Drummond points to another example: "People were saying in the late 1990s that there wouldn't be another oil well drilled in Canada for the rest of our lives when it was in the basement at \$10 [a barrel]. It's become the hottest area of economic activity. Who would have known that?"

So prepare for a career in job market, Drummond says an education is important, but narrowing in on a specific field of expertise isn't necessarily beneficial. "My advice to people is to train your mind and your capacities first and the subject matter is probably of second importance," he says. Michael Bloom, vice-president of organizational effectiveness and learning at the Conference Board of Canada, adds that young people should be open to all types of post-secondary training and not be fixated on the idea that a university education is the only key to a successful, enjoyable career. "Don't be put off by the fact that the system emphasizes university," says Bloom. "You can go to college, you can do an apprenticeship and have a great career that people admire."

The more schooling is always better view is not, however, unattainable. In their upcoming book, *Jury Power Blues*, University of Western Ontario sociology professors James Côté and Anton Allard write that in the 1990s, Canadian graduates twice as many university students as there were jobs created requiring a university degree. And, they say, more than four times the

number of community college graduates came out of the system than could be absorbed in new jobs requiring a college education. There are lots of jobs out there—but in their view, many do not call for a university education. "We're pushing them [students] into this kind of job preparation mentality that is not factual," says Côté. "Liberal arts education is not job-training except for being a life and not a profession. Very few of them are going to do that." ■



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New Government Programs Promote International Education


Canadian governments and institutions believe in the importance of offering students the opportunity to study overseas, enhance their skills, or spend up to six weeks abroad as part of their academic experience. However, less than 1 per cent of Canadian students participate in international education programs. The European Union, meanwhile, sends about 5 per cent of students on short-term exchanges, and Austria sends about 4 per cent of their students abroad.

Canada plans to catch up by providing new programs and support. Ontario and Quebec, for example, have scholarship programs ranging from about \$2,000 to \$7,000 per student for

travel costs, accommodation and tuition fees. The scholarships are awarded to students based on financial need and academic merit.

The Ontario government estimates that international students bring \$900 million in economic benefit to the province every year. In March 2007, the provincial government announced a \$5.2 million Teaching Higher plan that includes mentorship programs, enhanced stipends of existing student and image agreements with countries such as Germany and France and new agreements with China, India and other countries.

Find out more about studying abroad in the September 24 issue of Maclean's. Check out the top schools, destinations, scholarships, course credentials and so much more!


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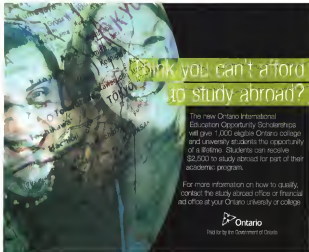
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FRANK ROBBINS: Chicken, eggs and an animal variety show of skills and songs described at 'Saturday Night Agriculture'

The 3M awards: Our best teachers

**With universities
emphasizing teaching,
these 10 lead the way**

BY MICHAEL GREEN & MICHAEL ROBERTS
You'd think about great teachers. They know when to start up. Talk to enough of them, and you'll see those passion, preparation and skill elevate a university course into a life lesson—and they all say much the same thing. Zip it. Let the students do the thinking.

"I consider a class hour to be a lifeline. If my voice is the only one sounding forth on the topic or the use of the name," says Judy Brown, a senior instructor in the department of English at the University of British Columbia. Adds Dennis Krebs, a psychology

professor at Simon Fraser University: "The hardest thing for me as a teacher is to keep my mouth shut. I'm always bawling forth." Brown and Krebs are among 10 professors named this year as 3M National Teaching Fellows, the country's most prestigious university teaching award. They join a community of more than 200 to receive the honor since its inception in 1985. The award was the inspiration of John Myers, then president of 3M Canada, who wanted to honor those who guided his education. He recruited his company to this long-running sponsorship, in collaboration with the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE), to foster the magic of teaching and award leadership. Myers became the media partner for the awards in 2006.

THIS YEAR'S 3M TEACHING FELLOWS

In 1986, to recognize the importance of university teaching, the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and 3M Canada created the 3M Teaching Fellows. Up to 10 university faculty members are recognized each year for their exceptional contributions to teaching and learning. Since 2006, Maclean's has proudly been the program's media sponsor.



This year's 3M Teaching Fellows, from left to right: JUDY BROWN, department of English, University of British Columbia; DENNIS KREBS, department of psychology, Brock University; JON HOUBERMAN, department of biology, University of Ottawa; HARRY HUBBARD, department of curriculum studies, University of British Columbia.

DENNIS KREBS, Psychology

Simon Fraser University
It was 1970 and the newly named Dr. Krebs was on a student high flyer. He'd parlayed a B.A. from UBC into a fellowship at Harvard. Within three years he had his doctorate, and an assistant professorship. The endowment launched into his first Harvard lecture course, modelling his style on his favorite professor: "It was a disaster. The next edition of the Harvard edition Blue Book (that only version of *non-scientific* one) labelled his course 'For Massachusetts Only'."

It was devastating, humiliating and perfectly understandable. He knew plenty about psychology, the teaching, somehow, was expected to come naturally. "Nobody gave me a tip, or affirmed me a word, suggested a course," he says. "People who sell their own ideas and high school students take courses on teaching and get a degree. Then you get university professors. They come out of grad school and paper on it of a class with no teaching whatsoever."

For Krebs, getting better involved self-direction, hard work and the realization that his students didn't want a hard instructor of his. He realized professors "I needed to find my own style." Krebs' teaching philosophy was to make work and the realization that his students didn't want a hard instructor of his. He realized professors "I needed to find my own style." Krebs' teaching philosophy was to make work and the realization that his students didn't want a hard instructor of his.

Krebs takes a three-pronged approach to his student class. He was worked through out the university to make teaching skills for faculty and graduate students. And he shared a driving force: his own passion and application of his own research. Krebs' teaching philosophy was to make work and the realization that his students didn't want a hard instructor of his.

education, one that focuses on writing skill, quantitative reasoning, and reading some research beyond their chosen faculty. He's also brought change to his own classroom. A visit to a faculty year seminar on the Evolution of Morality found Krebs sitting at the side of the room while his own students ran the show. "The students were in business not to lecture," says Fletcher Walden, a psychology major. "You lecture and you're picking the brain of one person as a student. But if it's a seminar like this, you're picking the brain of everyone in the class." As a result, an animated Krebs seemed to physically



**TEACHING HAS RARELY BEEN
ACCORDED THE SAME RESPECT AT
THE UNIVERSITY AS RESEARCH**

reminiscent himself. "I discovered to let the students work through the logic with minimal guidance. It's very easy to just tell people what you know," he says with a grin. But as he learned years ago, making teaching look easy is the hardest thing of all.

JUDY BROWN, English

University of British Columbia
It's the first day Brown's second-year Canadian literature class is studying *Wayan's Coyote*. All That Matters, the portrait of a Chinese family in Vancouver in the 1930s and '40s. Brown goes around the room. One student asks why they choose the Chinese

literature to represent literature. Another asks about the impact of both of them, another about the "ghost papers," the dates don't exist. "I thought that brought us to Canada. The class is a mix of students, a significant number are of Chinese origin. At some point, their families may have lived with the Choyes. "Student questions are sometimes direct where a class is going to go. I think that's when teaching is really happening," says Brown. "Those students can help with the study of this text for the whole class, and for myself as well."

Brown's classes grow from students to big class lectures. Her courses are dynamic, well prepared, but with room for spontaneity. Classes that fall flat, she's learned, are usually over-organized, "where I haven't left room for my students," she says. Her own agenda is pared. She's written books on the pedagogy of writing, she's a popular thesis supervisor in her specialty areas of Canadian and children's literature, and she mentors students scattered around the world in the university's arts co-op program, as well as gifted high school students in a university invitation program.

As part of the selection process for the 3M, candidates are asked to describe their teaching philosophy. "Teach is a wonderful little verb, I think," she wrote. "It's a way of teaching and it's not a way of teaching. It's a way of teaching about it. Underlying it is a desire to have students who prefer their own line of understanding, synthesis and experience—flexibility, spontaneity, lecture, hold forth—the word 'teach' stands in proudly." "I teach, and proudly so."

HARRY HUBBARD,

**Curriculum Studies
University of British Columbia**
While there's a lot of bust in many teacher, Hubbard emphasizes that his own performance "isn't like that term," he says. "There's something like that about it that doesn't sit well with a man known for meticulous preparation, prodigious workload and commitment to teamwork. "For me, it's showing that you care, but with your knees rolled up, ready



3M Teaching Fellows (continued), left to right: DENNIS KREBS, department of psychology, Simon Fraser University; SUSAN MCCANN, department of mechanical and industrial engineering, University of Toronto; JEFFREY RAYNER, CANHAM, department of chemistry, Memorial University; FRANK ROBBINS, department of agriculture, food and natural resources, University of Alberta; HARRY HUBBARD, faculty of medicine and dentistry, University of Alberta; SPAGE WALKER, department of archaeology, University of Saskatchewan.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAROL BOLAN

MACLEAN'S APRIL 2, 2007

to get into the game with students and really enjoy it," he says in a gentle English accent.

Hubbell arrived at UBC from England in 1992 to take a graduate degree and advance his career as a physical education teacher. He paid for his doctorate by taking an increasing load in a semester lecturer. The senior, who discovered a brilliant teacher, also one who was willing to do his early days on the strength of his intuition. Hubbell, inspired by the classroom and increasingly fascinated by the scholarship of teaching and learning, found a house for both at UBC. He joined the faculty in 1996, and teaches physical health and outdoor education within the faculty of education and writes extensively on teaching and program development.

He also helped develop, in 1998, UBC's faculty effectiveness program in teaching and learning. The program, which he coordinates, now checks top UBC professors to the research and scholarship behind good teaching, earning a ripple effect across the campus. It also draws faculty from other universities. Hubbell consults across the country on referring articles to achieve better student outcomes. "It's in the type of teacher everyone remembers, respects and is forever grateful for," says Tanya Rappin, a high-school teacher and former student.

IVAN STERNIN, Medicine, University of Alberta
Ivan Sternin, a doctor of emergency medicine, remembers a night many years ago when a patient in his care took a turn for the worse. Sternin, then a student intern working on the intensive care unit, panicked, calling his instructor. "What should he do? The teacher asked him what he believed he ought to do. Sternin told him, "Do it," said the teacher, "and call me back when you're done." Sternin inserted a tube down the patient's throat and a hefty intravenous needle into the patient's neck. "It was the first time that I did it all myself," Sternin says now.

Recognized now as one of the University of Alberta's most gifted teachers, it's the risk on the other end of the scale when Sternin recalls when asked about his own great teacher. "He means me, he believes in me, therefore, I believe," Sternin remembers thinking that night three decades ago.

Sternin applies to be like those teachers in his own past who "didn't take the best out of

my hand. They allowed me to swing—and to miss." It's a method of teaching he's since emulated at U of A's emergency medicine program. "Dr. Sternin's approach encourages the learner to act as if he or she were the independent physician in an emergency situation," reads the letter from Sternin's faculty in support of his 104 application. Though Sternin and other professors here always in the background to ensure patient safety, it is the corner who is permitted the lead—

"THERE'S NOTHING MORE SATISFYING THAN SEEING THAT SPARK: 'I GET IT! I GET IT!'"



IVAN STERNIN: "Mistakes are part of the learning process"

and permitted to miss. "Mistakes"—and here Sternin underlines the point—are part of the learning process. "Teaching mistakes help before a classroom has gotten large and revealing, down in classrooms, when he gently cautions into coming close through participation. "Please absorb this and go for the bowl but let's let the brain," he says. Characteristically, Sternin downplays the role of the instructor. "The protagonist in the learner—you are the tool," he says. "There's nothing more satisfying than looking into the learner's eyes and seeing that spark—I get it! I get it!" Sternin says, pointing at him self as he makes a student's antics moment. "Yes, you taught me."

FRANK ROBINSON, Agriculture, University of Alberta

In a second, their lecture hall off the corner sky quad, on a building so modern in its old culture's Central Academic Building, Frank Robinson stands before an enormous slide projection of a cow's udder. Through the natural a comparison of udders and how it is paired for contrast with a set of pink, white, and of the art, dairy equipment. Robinson compares it to "a cow walk on a muddy field." One student notes that the cow walked at the very dairy on display and began ordering its udders. Another explains the exact size

measuring measure displayed in his native Holstein. (For the record, much of it is shipped to France.) Such interaction could look like a free-for-all. It's not, says 20-year-old Jenna Williams, an aspiring farmer. "Because we get involved—in what we want to do."

That's just what Robinson wants to hear. A compact, wiry man with a police officer's moustache, Robinson could be called slight were it not for a quiet, off-the-wall kind of charisma—one that leads experts in asking the sort of questions that, initially at least, appear to come from the depths of old agriculture. "Why do cattle eat their placenta?" Do they like the taste or is it just protein?" Or try. "Can horses take prunes?" Or "How many cows would it take to power your home the next system?"

Such questions form the basis of Robinson's teaching—and particularly of the now famed "There's a Heifer in Your Back," an annual reality show Robinson dreamed up. Actually an agri-science teaching method, "Heifer" was a classroom assigned questions—the above are lifted from past examinations—to research, design, defend and then perform before an audience. A very large audience. Its most recent iteration drew a crowd of nearly 700. "It's like Saturday Night Live agriculture," says Cynthia Bawcutt, communications director with the U of A's faculty of agriculture, forestry, and food science. Despite withering cow critiques and sometimes mayhem, the show has made Robinson Edmonton's epitome of animal husbandry-based science. They've also allowed him a way to permit junior students the major-based learning that in the past was reserved for upper-level courses.

It was not always thus. Robinson, who the faculty's associate dean of academic affairs, confesses that, 30 years ago, he delivered the same mad lectures. Then he noticed something. Every once in a while—an airplane in a corner circle somewhere, say—a neighboring pig singer would inevitably look over and ask Robinson why chickens dominated his lap top screen. The exchange would develop into informal sessions—post-conference, really—on everything from poultry farming to real cow to raise the "It's the most effective teaching I do," he says in the airplane chapter.

Robinson soon realized that teaching students how to speculate and pressure learn—perhaps through the way that airplane broke him—would be the most valuable. In use he could give them. In unguarded, note for more learning, students "aren't picking anything up as value-added format," says Robinson. "A lot of people know a lot of material," says Robinson. "It's the way you can measure it." Robinson's next door, either "I think one day we'll be doing Heifer in Your Back—the musical." ■

Five questions to ask your dentist about acid erosion.

1. What is it?

Acid erosion is a softening and gradual loss of the surface of the tooth's enamel. If you do nothing about acid erosion, it may lead to more serious dental problems.

2. How did I get it?

Probably as a direct result of consuming acids found in everyday food and drink, such as fruit juices, some soft drinks, fruit and wine. After contact with these acids, the surface of the enamel is softened, and then more vulnerable to the effects of brushing.

3. Why haven't I heard about this before?

Diets have changed a lot over recent years leading to a higher consumption of acids. But unfortunately acid erosion can't easily be detected in the early stages. To the naked eye teeth may look perfectly healthy. Only your dentist will know for sure if you have it. One early sign might be a slight sensitivity to cold, hot, or sweet things.



Your teeth can look healthy



But a dental light can reveal glossiness and translucent edges

4. What can I do about it?

Visit your dentist for the best advice. He may tell you that there's no need to avoid certain foods or drinks. Instead, think carefully about your eating and drinking habits. For example, don't mull fruit over in your mouth, swallow it as soon as you feel it is ready to digest, drink acidic drinks through a straw, avoiding your teeth, and wait at least an hour after consuming acidic food or drinks before brushing your teeth.

5. Can a simple thing like a toothpaste help?

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ASK YOUR DENTIST ABOUT ACID EROSION



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*Illustration of increased translucency on effect of acid erosion.

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ROGERS
Your World Right Now



GATES: (above) has powerful supporters for his plan, including Canada's Indian Services minister GR 2.6. And the month before, 70 agriculturalists from 12 African countries signed a statement to the Gates Foundation: "We will never there, misguided, top-down but locally funded initiatives from the North, which show little or no understanding or respect for our complex systems."

Gates and others take offense at Gates' analysis of African small-holder farmers and the argument that Gates' foundation website: "Science has proved them to be complex." He gives an example of small-scale farmer solutions, describing a rice seed that's now four times more productive after farmers teamed up with a research institute in Mali. Gates' supporters, such as USC Canada, also point to a program that began in Ethiopia in 1998, when small-scale farmers were in control of seed production and regenerated farms where that had been on the verge of starvation in that country. USC helped to expand the seed-saving program, Seeds of Survival, it says, after a famine, where projects worked from the bottom up.

In Canada, there is broad agreement that African farmers should be made a priority, and that the Canadian International Development Agency is leading in that area, as a broadly French Senate report released last month made clear. And many organizations are supporting the initiative, including CTC Group, the Canadian Non-Profit Action Network, the National Farmers Union, and the Canadian Food Security Policy Group. But Gates has many supporters in Parliament. Ontario Liberal MP Bill Raitt is leading the charge. The Conservative government to back a new "African green revolution." She's impressed with the Gates program. "It's a tremendous signal," Seneschals say. "When Gates came to Canada, he was able to leverage money for an AIDS vaccine." Now she thinks he might leverage an entire revolution.

Even the Gates Foundation's strong though, knowledge that revolution is not a magic wand. The Gates' money has helped, in some places, to create the rich, rich, rich, or, in some places, to damage the environment, he says. "If we don't learn from that, then we're stupid."

SOWING SEEDS OF REVOLT

Why many Africans are rejecting Bill Gates's Green Revolution 2.0

BY ALEX GISSAN — Last September, Bill Gates launched the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa, beginning with a US\$100 million fund that will develop 400 varieties of high yielding seeds in sub-Saharan Africa. The goal is to end hunger for 30 to 40 million people. "It's a start—it's going to benefit billion dollars over time," says Roy Stamer, senior program officer with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The program is inspired by the first green revolution started around 60 years ago, which spread high yielding seeds, pesticides and fertilizers to increase crop yields in Asia and Latin America. "We need a revolution, but it's going to be a second green revolution," Stamer says.

The first wave of Green Revolution 2.0 is called *Programme for African Seed Systems* (PASS). Gates has committed US\$100 million in grants, and the Rockefeller Foundation another US\$50 million for the first five years of the program. But hundreds of African farming organizations want to join in PASS; they want control of their own seeds and land, blood, says Mercedes Gota, a development socio-economist in Mali, where he's execu-

tive director of a research institute. He and other farming organizations will be in Ottawa on March 26 to link Canadian policy makers to help stop the initiative. Gates says the first green revolution, called GR 1.0, largely took seed control away from small-scale farmers, especially women. This is a life and death issue in sub-Saharan Africa, where most of people live in rural areas and where most farming is done by women on small parcels of land. As well, he adds, "We are suffering from overuse of pesticides in our country." New seeds usually rely on heavy doses of chemical inputs, all of which are expensive. Those opposed to GR 2.0, however, are up against a behemoth. Gates' charitable foundation is the world's second largest (after IKEA), with an endowment of US\$45 billion, an annual grant budget was US\$5.6 billion. The World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a global network of 15 agricultural research centres that helped run GR 1.0, are among Gates' supporters. Also helping are development gurus Jeffrey Sachs and former UN secretary general Kofi Annan, who, rumor has it, Gates will probably choose to lead GR 2.0. No surprise, one of the world's largest seed firms, is also connected. And so is a former vice-president, Bob Hensch, has joined to the Gates Foundation.

Still, Gates gives 900 people a ride from 16 countries during a food sovereignty conference in February to discuss why they were



REVENGE FROM THE DEEP: WHALES & HUMANS D Japan is often criticized for allowing whale hunting. And when fishermen recently tried to rescue a 15-m sperm whale that became trapped in Japan's Uwajima Bay. It seemed like payback time for the whales. One entered 1984, the first time to cross the whale away from the shore. The whale's response was to break out of the fishermen's boat, causing it to explode. One of the humans drowned. The whale proceeded out to sea.

54

5.7

'HE WAS ONE OF THESE VERY HARDLIN WESTERNERS, AND I WROTE HIM OFF TOTALLY, BUT I MUST SAY, THE GUY LEARNS'—TEMPLETON PZE WINNER **CHARLES TAYLOR** ON STEPHEN HARPER

LYLE OBERG A PUBLIC SPOT ON A PIECE OF PANTOMIME

Who knew Alberta politicians were capable of pantomime? Last week, Premier Ed Stelmach and Finance Minister Lyle Oberg embarked on a very public spat, dancing away whether to push Oberg on his pledge to keep gas-tax revenue energy resources out of equalization (Stelmach's bagpipe), or on securing more per-capita transfers (only for Alberta) (Oberg's bagpipe). But there are now whispers that the whole episode was much more, a bit of good cop/bad cop designed to pave the way for the inevitable—repealed equalization formula in the federal budget—while permitting Stelmach the hands-out-of-Alberta-revenue pie indignation Alberta gossips love. Why top Oberg as bad cop? He's already won as a local canon: Stelmach fired Oberg from cabinet last year for saying he knew where all the "slushpans" were buried. Who has next performance another act of skill and bones?

JOE HILL THE KING OF HOBOKEN'S CROWN PRINCE

The old union member, *Edmond* *I Love Joe Hill* Last Night, took on a new resonance last week when the contemporary Joe Hill finally came alive. The author of *Meat-Scaped* (Ace) (HarperCollins) acknowledged he was the oldest son of bestselling horror master Stephen King—and that his life and passions had named his Joseph Hill brother after a labor martyr executed after a labor war was caused by firing squad in 1915. For a 54-year-old who has been writing acclaimed horror fiction for a decade, winning two Drua Stoker awards—the Oscars of his genre—and who's also the spitting image of either father or son, Hill's career seemed up well. But in 2003, racism started to fly. Hill says he had "wanted to run and fall on my own merits, but haven't even remotely 'blinged' or died" and "probably wouldn't have survived the novel's publication for long. The king of horror's hat has revealed himself."

JESSICA DUBÉ AN ACCIDENT-PRONE QUEEN OF THE ICE

Jessica Dubé has had a rough winter. In November, the 19-year-old Canadian figure skater narrowly escaped serious injury when her car collided with another. She pressed on, skated with partner Bryce Davidson scoring a bronze for a sprained wrist. Then, last month, while she and Davidson were performing side-by-side camel spins during a short program in Colorado Springs, Davidson skated into Dubé's back, shifting a deep gash on her cheek and nose. She was left with a scar on her face that is expected to diminish over the years. Yet this winter, the pair were confident that they're back on track after arriving at Tokyo for the world championship. Her life has been an accidental history when she was four the long part of a fall to a "leaves-galore" "I don't know," she says, "Maybe next time."

PERVEZ MUSHARRAF NO CHIEF JUSTICE, NO PEACE

Judges are not usually at the vanguard of revolutions, but Pakistan might just prove the exception. Previous over President Pervez Musharraf's recent decision to suspend Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry represents the biggest crack in Musharraf's hold on power in 1999. The legal system has grown to a bulk in thousands of lawyers beyond proceedings. Last week, a bar association meeting turned into a violent demonstration. At least five judges were in the process of resigning. Musharraf initially claimed the outspoken Chaudhry's removal and house arrest were a "purely judicial matter." Few bought that—the chief justice has resigned after the first of 400 Pakistanis who have "disappeared" into the custody of security services. On Monday, Musharraf tried to contain the fiery allegations by promising a "neutral" investigation to hold elections this year.

CYRUS FREIDHEIM PROTECTING WORKERS HAS A STICKY PRICE

The current CEO of the Hard Hat Fund, Cyrus Freidheim, formerly of the national, has nothing to do with the fund's current success. Rather, Cyrus Freidheim has been an entrepreneur. They stem from a previous job at Chicago's Brando, the first company. Chicago's last week agreed to pay US\$15 million in fines in response to a U.S. government probe into allegations that the firm paid US\$1 million to bribe its way into the market—denied by Washington as terrorism—to protect human workers in Colombia. Paying the U.S. fine might save the union. Colombia officials called for punishing Chicago executives, partly by sending Freidheim, office Colombian judge. Chicago officials say they've only wanted to protect their workers. But an idea they may have gotten the company's most prominent former employee in deep trouble.

EMMA WATSON GIRL WIZARD MAY DO DISAPPEARING ACT

Will she or won't she? Emma Watson seems to be toying with Warner Bros. over whether she will return to play the teeny Hermione Granger in the final two Harry Potter films. She'll be at least 18 by the time the last film shot and has reportedly grown weary of the fallout that comes from being a recognized star. Though Daniel Radcliffe will be back to play the lead role, fellow Potter actor Rupert Grint says that Watson "doesn't want to do it anymore. She's tired of being known as 'that girl from Harry Potter.'" Watson hired a bodyguard after being stalked while she was attending a lecture at school. As much as her unassuming character, Watson reportedly doesn't want production schedules to interfere with studies, despite having offered US\$1 million for the film. In the interim, on a close one of Harrison's spells? Fans will know soon. Ringing of the cash movie event in a few months.

CHARLES TAYLOR THE CHAMPION OF PLURALITY

Rebelling the Enlightenment has sometimes been a lonely journey for Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor, but last week his perseverance paid off. Taylor, who believes a doctrine of reason has blinded most of the world to the "humanizing force of meaning and spiritual freedom," has been named the largest annual monetary award available to scholars (larger than the Nobel prize). Taylor, 75, is professor emeritus at McGill and teaches at Northwestern University in Chicago. In the 1960s, he was unsuccessful for Parliament four times. Gradually, he says, his ideas about plurality are finding their way into government. Examples? Stephen Harper's recent talk of a Quebec nation "At the time of Bush he wouldn't think of administration," recalls Taylor of the PM. "He was one of those very hardlin' Westerners, and I wrote him off totally, but I must say, the guy learns."

ALBERTO GONZALES A LOYAL 'BUSHIE' ON THE BRINK

George W. Bush's loyal attorney general, Alberto Gonzales, faced the prospect of a quick trip to political obscurity this week. At issue was his handling of the recent firing of eight U.S. attorneys, among 53 who represent the federal government in civil and criminal cases. Democrats in Congress alleged six of the attorneys were working on public corruption files that might have been embarrassing to the Republican Committee chairman chief of staff, in an email made public, discussed removing U.S. attorneys considered not to be "loyal Bushies." This week, even a Republican senate committee for removal. On Monday, Gonzales made an awkward apology to the attorneys for how the dismissals were handled, and Bush is standing by him. But with all the law school strategists on both parties, how much longer he can do that is debatable.



AP/WIDEWORLD

THE BACK PAGES

tv

A belatedly
stupid show

film

Gunning for
the president

bazaar

Love your tooth
a variation

help

For those who
hate lawyers

feschuk

Shows the
wealth, please!

CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

music

Marvin Hamlisch didn't write the book on the business of auditioning for the theatre: but he wrote the music—the music for *A Chorus Line*. It's a piece of theatrical perfection that opened on Broadway in 1975, ran for 15 years, and lives forever in records around the globe. For a generation of audiences, it has defined the experience of musical theatre. It is the closest most of us will ever get—or would want to get—to feeling the toll of the audition, and the courage it takes to pursue a smile over your insecurity, and dance as a way door.

Imagine, then, the scene in recent Wednesday morning at the Kay Mink Centre, a performance arts theatre in West Vancouver, British Columbia, where some 40 young people auditioning for the chance of a lifetime, and one of the people who will decide your fate in Hamlisch, the very guy who wrote *I Hope I Got it*, which is what these kids are praying even as they dance their hearts out.

The Mink Centre served for several days as a set for *Triple Sensation*, a different sort of reality show, a bit of a garish reality, because its only gimmick is authenticity. When it starts airing on CBC this fall, there will be no scripted confrontations, no stressful sacrificial lamb, no American or Canadian idol, no humiliation, no result. The show, as the first part of its name suggests, is a search for triple threats, those with the rare ability to act, sing and dance. The winner also needs the magical life "it" factor, the "one singular sensation" famously celebrated in *A Chorus Line*. *Triple Sensation*'s grand prize isn't a record deal or touring fame, it's a scholarship to any of the top financial training institutions in the world. It's real—the real deal display of well-rounded talent—enough to draw a Canadian wall crowd? You bet it is, says the show's creator and executive producer, Garth Drabinsky, no stranger to the dramatic arc between success and failure.

The hopefuls are average, beating under the lights in seven sealed rehearsal rooms, in spandex and dance/solopoppers. Some are still in high school, none are older than 26. All

Garth Drabinsky is looking for an acting, singing, dancing Triple Sensation
BY KEN MACQUEEN

want a life on the stage, and this morning they are in line as they've ever been. They've already survived open call and callback auditions, many more have not. Here, as in their regional auditions in Toronto and Montreal, they've been interviewed, and filmed. And over the past few days they have, each of them, walked about in a rehearsal room, done the show, and faced the judges to sing, and to act. Now, together with their fellow competitors, they dance.

Darby kids, every leap, every flash of talent is directed in the same "marriage pact" of five judges, armed with clipboards and song, music, expectations, and sitting in a row of director's chairs. The dark-haired master with the commanding chestbones and the beautiful smile is the actress Cynthia Dale. The man with the thick and wavy hair is Adrian Noble, the former artistic director of England's Royal Shakespeare Company. Watching with a cool eye is acclaimed dancer and choreographer Sergio Trujillo. When something pleases him he whimpers in the ear of the Ordinal, who has, in many ways, as much riding on the success of *Triple Sensation* as do the young hopefuls before him. Finally,

here-looking the part of a hardly high-school drama teacher in his neat sweater vest, short and me in Hamlisch, whose name has won, or lost court, a Tony, a Pulitzer, three Golden Globes, four Emmys, four Genies and three Oscars.

It's 11 a.m., and though the backstage doors are open to the stars, the place has a locker-room smell of sweat, and something else, probably fear if the hopefuls have a lack of sense. They're gulping water and the best of the dancers are stretching bodies as tight and muscular as those of elite athletes. They're huddled in a room to learn a secret: a set of moves before they're tossed off into groups of four to do a star turn before the camera.

A Chorus Line again with a scene very much like this. Hamlisch's score is different than the song fiasco of the hand at the Kay Mink Centre playing around again and again, and the dancers are so tight as to be fragile. But the feeling is right: the driving beat of rehearsal piano, symbol and drum, the urgent swirl of hair, the gutter sounds straining to hold it together. The lyrics by Hamlisch's writing partner Edward Kibbee (an uncle) have been written this morning. God I hope I got it / I hope I got it / how many people does the world? There are no lyrics today, only music and dance, and the knowledge that this after noon just four among them move forward. I've come this far, but even so / it could be you, it could be me.

Each group, the weak and the brilliant, leave the stage to the cheer and applause of their fellow competitors. "There are some dancers here who aren't as experienced as others," says 17-year-old Eden Alliera, who moves with fluid grace on the floor. "We're just supporting each other as we wait our turn today." Like all contestants, she signed some-

TRIPLE SENSATION judges (left to right): Sergio Trujillo, Adrian Noble, Garth Drabinsky, Marvin Hamlisch and Cynthia Dale



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THERE ARE NO HORRORS on this show. Even when people die, it only proves they know simple facts they should have learned in school.

This show is so stupid it's brilliant

With 'Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?'
 Mark Burnett has struck humiliation gold

BY JIMMY J. WEISSMAN • It's hard to explain why producer Mark Burnett's *Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?* has become the biggest hit of the mid-season TV schedule with a price at which it's being bought by networks. Just powering into the constants a bunch of questions that come from elementary school textbooks ("What are two cities in the USA that don't have a mayor?"). Adults who don't remember those subjects are paired with children who have done their homework. If the adults get the answers wrong, and they often do, the kids laugh at them. Slowly, television critic Tim Westwood lamented that viewers "got to feel condescension or mortification—take your pick." But what annoys Westwood is what accounts for *5th Grader*'s success. It doesn't waste time saying goodbye. It's really TV based down to its essence: humiliation.

We love watching people fail, especially people on TV. But all reality shows these people failing, what *5th Grader* has done is to make that humiliation "fun," without any discernible. Older reality shows have some element that makes them seem almost as if they were a game, but *5th Grader*, both from Burnett, as like *Survivor*, where we enjoy watching characters interact and develop. *Survivor* is a survival strategy show, and part of the fun is hearing the music. These programs may force people to experience humiliation, but they're fun to watch. In *Survivor*, we can see how they want to be successful in their own way.

Though *5th Grader* seems a "responsible" format in well-the-odd show, it's actually a little bit of a game show. It doesn't even try to be effective as a game show: there are very few actual questions asked, and the questions

are mostly educationally simple, because they're right out of grade school ("What are the five Great Lakes?"). But the fun of *5th Grader* is that every moment of it makes us feel only superior to the guests. There are no heroes, no real achievements, even if they win, that only proves they know the simple facts they should have learned in school. As for the losers, they'll usually have to make themselves believe the world. Burnett explained to USA Today that he's not trying to be mean to the guests. "We're not trying to be mean to the guests," he says. "But I'm going to say the words 'I am not smarter than a fifth grader' doesn't count as getting derogated, it's certainly as close as any reality show has come."

Or, at least, say big he really does. There have been other shows like this, but they have not been as successful. NBC's *5th Grader* depends on a host (Jim Rogers) who displays contempt for the contestants. For *Survivor*, the host, most of the reality shows are about people who have no admirable qualities, they find them. *Survivor* and *Survivor* are about people who have no admirable qualities, they find them. *Survivor* and *Survivor* are about people who have no admirable qualities, they find them.

Before *5th Grader*, the biggest reality show given a contestant we could envy. The people

on the *5th Grader* are usually educated, and most of the American kids singers are fairly smart. The ones who fail are still not really failures in life, and when they lose they don't think of themselves as being humiliated. They probably think that the question was a stupid question, or they were just being ignored," explains Dr. Steven Rosen, professor of psychology at Ohio State University. That's the way that *5th Grader* came along to fill in the void that *Survivor* was leaving behind. The contestants are usually of just feeling jealous because they were on TV.

This is what the show's critics overlook. The *Washington Post* called that *5th Grader* a stupid show that demonstrates "how far down the evolutionary scale quiz shows have reached." When Mark Burnett, at *Survivor* fame, responded that *5th Grader* is not stupid, but rather encourages us "to laugh at the stupid people. It comes from the same place as those people on the street interviews that Jay Leno does where we're supposed to howl with laughter that some people think Ben Franklin was our first president."

This is why we're taking in *5th Grader* is where we go to get a sadistic laugh. If the people on *Survivor* are living out our dreams of performing on TV, the contestants on *5th Grader* are living out our nightmares of defeat and ridicule. Usually, after years of trying, Mark Burnett has given us the opportunity to see a whole lot of people who are dumber and more pathetic than we are. ■

ACCORDING TO TV BUSH IN LATIN AMERICA

"According to TV, President Bush returned from a week-long trip through Latin America. When asked about it, Bush said: 'Actually, I went to Latin America, Latin Mexico, and Latin Guatemala.' He told the Mexicans their country is Mexico, Salina Hayek." —Conan O'Brien
 "President Bush said it now is good to see the eyes. He said, 'It's amazing. We thought we had a lot of things here. They are all over the place and there's a lot of things here.'" —Jay Leno



IN MOST HOLLYWOOD movies, a sniper working U.S. authorities is a psychopath or foreign terrorist. In *Shooter*, he's a guerrilla hero.

Gunning for American politicians

Mark Wahlberg plays an ex-Marine sniper who brings the war home to Washington

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON • In a recent letter to Congress, expressing my view that you have fought overseas, a reader wrote, "Sometimes a movie is just a movie." In a Toronto interview last week, Mark Wahlberg offered a similar response: "I asked about his role in *Shooter* as a sniper who pulls off evil gun movements all over and controls U.S. troops. 'Hopefully, people are going to realize it's only a movie.'"

While it's possible to argue that Joe's innocent side of Spenser's leadership of the Pension funds may have no bearing on America's current problems in Iraq or Iran, *Shooter* is another story. As an action movie and conspiracy thriller, it plays as high-octane female entertainment—but with a difference. In most Hollywood movies, a sniper winning U.S. authorities is a psychopath, a foreign terrorist, or, best of all, *Shooter* is a self-made guerrilla hero, a link with Rambo fighting for moral self-interest in a contemporary America that the script suggests is "ruled by things." It's hard to dismiss a movie as mere entertainment when the dialogue lingers with lines like these: "There's no Senate and Clinton. There's no Democrats and Republicans. There's only boxes and base notes... This is a country where the secretary of defense can go on TV and tell the American public it's about freedom, it's not about oil."

Directed by Antoine Fuqua (*Training Day*) and written by G. S. Sholeen (a novelist) and Bob Lee Swagger (*Shooter*), a Marine scout sniper once betrayed by the military brass. First he's abandoned during a Baghdadian explosion in East Africa. Later, he's hired out of retirement to help thwart an assassination plot against the president, only to be framed in the process. Wounded and on the run, Swagger becomes a fugitive

working war against a Washington cabal.

With a misquoting FBI man in a Che T-shirt (Michael Peña) playing Tonto to Wahlberg's Lone Ranger, *Shooter* unfolds like a western with modern weaponry. Swagger is a DTV guerrilla with a arsenal of high-powered rifles, ammo, pipe bombs, tear gas, napalm and camouflage gear—all assembled from a big box store. The script originally identified the store as Wal-Mart, says Wahlberg, 35, who is a dark suit, white shirt and tie looks more like a banker than a bomber. "One of my favorite lines was, 'So what are we going to do now?' We do what all good Americans do when there's a problem—we go to Wal-Mart." Then cut to him at the gun rack. "But Wal-Mart vetted the undesirable product placement. 'All that stuff is readily available in the store,' he says. "That's why we didn't want to show how you make a pipe bomb. You've got to trust that audiences are smart enough to figure things out on their own."

The movie also includes some home-spun surgery as Swagger enlarges his (Katie Miao) to treat a bullet wound. He has her pick up several dozen cans of whipped cream, which he inhales as an anesthetic—a dubious scenario, says Wahlberg, who worked as an on-scene medic in his teens with a guy who got fired "because he was in the forest all day sucking the gas out of the whipped cream—if you do

it enough, you get high and pass out."

Before his various on-screen roles as pop star, underwear model and Oscar-nominated actor (for *The Departed*), Wahlberg got his own taste of guns and drugs as a delinquent teen. "We had a few guns," he says. "And I've been in situations where bullets have been fired."

Now, he claims, "I don't even own guns, but I like thinking about them and them in my head." Asked about the impact of glorifying the murder of politicians, Wahlberg recalled the audience response to a test screening of *Shooter* (spoil alert: spoiler paragraph if you don't want to learn about the fate of a villainous U.S. senator played by Ned Beatty). "When I shot the senator in the face, middle-aged women were screaming and cheering at the top of their lungs. Like it was a sporting event. Like the Red Sox had won the World Series. The first thing that told me it, we've got a winner. The second thing is, wow, you can't help but think, in the day and age we're living in, society feels it's acceptable."

Wahlberg says he hopes "younger people who want to come and see me back on will ask questions and demand answers, and with questions coming up they'll increase their rights to vote and not to bear arms." But by the end of the interview, he's making doubts. "People are impressionable. I'm already guilty-ridden enough being Catholic. You're going to have me saying, 'I'm not going to sleep tonight, worrying about bad-making bombs'." Relax. It's only a movie. ■



WE'RE STALKING: HEATHER MILLS

The busy flower reader and Paul McCartney's estranged wife may face a civil suit for trespassing after she allegedly made a late-night visit to a British pig farm on behalf of a vegetarian group. The farmer has warned that unauthorized visitors can introduce disease to the pigs. Meanwhile, police warned Mills to stop oversteering Britain's emergency 999 number, stating she spent called four times in one day. Mills has alleged she had her dreams.

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THE INCIDENTAL TOURIST, an Ottawa company, helps clients to Nanjing and plans their vacations around their dental work.

A vacation that'll have you drooling

Finally those rotten teeth of yours are good for something: a two-week holiday in China

BY MARTIN PATRICKIAN • Garry Judson is a semi-retired property manager whose impeccably clipped incisors the frames who would otherwise be a very expensive mouth. The Ottawa native suffers from soft teeth—they're like chalk, he says—and by his own count has had 12 of his 16 capped with pretty white porcelain. Five years ago, he didn't too much to grin. Today, he could still mouth-pump—and maybe have had to, given that it would have cost upwards of \$12,000 for his now-radiant smile.

Instead, Judson made three trips to China in the last five years, bought some porcelain in Cheng Du, saw Beijing and Shanghai and related activities, the last at the rate of \$15,000. Even after airfare and hotels, he figures he saved himself more than \$25,000. "It was obvious when you looked at it, but when you got into the place they were gorgeous, well-lit, and did everything they had to do," he says. "The dentist even showed me the needle before he used it, because he knew I was scared."

China's many impressive monuments and cheap-but-creaky impressed Judson so much he's going back to fix his molars—though this time it will be under more opulent circumstances, thanks to a Canadian company eager to exploit the curious (if a bit wary) niche market of world travel and oral care dentistry lured by former film producer, advertising executive and now tour business deal service David McConnell, the Incidentals Tourist (just in case you'll ferry Judson and other Canadians and Americans clients to the city of Nanjing in China. For \$2,600, the company provides a two-week, all-inclusive package planned around when and where it's your going down to your mouth. Usually the vacation pays for itself. In Judson's case, his no-molars will cost

it, but in China. Airfare (\$1,300 from Ottawa) and Incidentals' fee (\$2,600, one fee if you stay in China) brings the total to \$3,900—or \$100 less than the \$4,000 his capped molars would cost at his Ottawa dentist. "And I get a two-week vacation in China for that," Judson says. (Dental plans reimburse patients for the same amount as work done in Canada.)

Midwest tourism is not new. Having long sold the Western world on software and cell-phone services, India has taken to servicing and upgrading body parts: replacing legs, teaching customers and other assisted non-mechanics of medical procedures are expected to be a billion-dollar industry by 2012. Many Canadian companies have capitalized on the trend, including Montreal-based Gosselin, which gives customers the chance to, say, get their implants in Toronto.

McConnell is the board, belly and business owner of Incidentals, though with a keen sense of self-awareness (he usually associated with St. Nick. He chose Nanjing because the city's underdeveloped tourism industry has largely kept it under the West's radar. "People in Nanjing don't realize the potential," he says. "Because the city isn't a Beijing or a Shanghai, it doesn't have as much yet. The dental tourism capital of the world? It's a killer name, isn't it?" There are also day-long trips to Suzhou, Hangzhou and Shanghai in between bouts in the dentist.)

The incidentals dentist himself, Dr. Chen Chao, is a graduate of Nanjing's Medical University, and his resume posted on Incidentals' site. McConnell said Dr. Chen's services, and personally writes to the quality of his work. Perhaps equally important, particularly for Incidentals' clients of (mostly) aging baby boomers with mouths full of yellowed regions, is the clinic itself. McConnell's vocabulary is peppered with words like "luxury," "VIP" and "the stars of the way."

To be sure, the Incidentals Tourist may well stay from the vestiges of Communism's medical care—no hospital mouthpiece here—and Dr. Chen's lab looks like it might have been plucked from Canada's oldest suburban area codes, complete with new X-ray machines and marble floors.

Still, visiting the dentist is generally a wretched experience, no matter how nice the floor is, and McConnell tells the vacation aspect is part of the deal. It's not a reward for what you spend on the chair. It's also a chance to spend the time out of yourself on the cheap. McConnell says, and also commiserates about your teeth with people who actually want to hear about it.

On the scheduled tour of the dental city of Suzhou, it isn't uncommon, says McConnell, to have all the incidentals' clients gleefully talking about their morning's bridge work, caps and root canals with the satisfaction still fresh in their mouths. "Many love coming here."



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MICHAIL J. MAKARENKO

1921-2007

He survived the Second World War, a KGB prison and nearly 11 years in the hellish Soviet gulag

Michael J. Makarenko was born Moshé Hershkovitch in Galatz, Romania, on May 4, 1921. His parents, Yankel Hershkovitch and Malka Weissman, were Orthodox Jews and his grandparents were both rabbis. Because it was a time of anti-Semitism in the Balkan countries, the family decided of moving to Palestine to escape anti-Semitic pogroms. Moshé had also heard that the Soviet Union would be welcoming and it was closer. So at eight years of age, speaking only Yiddish, he ran away. First, he went to Ukraine, where he lived in an orphanage and endured beatings from other boys in the shower because he was recruited. Then, after the beginning of the Second World War, joined the Soviet army.

But still he wasn't accepted as a Jew, some troops adopted and baptized him as a Russian Orthodox Christian. Between 1941 and 1943, he was hospitalized four times for combat-related diseases. "When the war ended, Masha returned to Leningrad, where he took a series of medical jobs, often working three at a time, before becoming an art restorer at the Literature Museum. He started collecting paintings, and after he met his wife, Ludmila Makarenko, the daughter of a Russian Orthodox priest, in 1954, he took a home on the outskirts of the city with materials he scavenged from salvage yards. They raised three children: Sergei, Lena and Olga. Masha changed his name. "Jews were considered second class," Olga says. "You couldn't stand out. It was dangerous."

But Michael's attempts to join the Communist party line chafed at him. Olga describes her father as a passionate man who had a profound love for justice. He was "frosty but, beating with life," she says.

"Everyone who was close to him also had to be burning with life." His long-time assistant and translator, Gregory Barnado, says Michael particularly disliked the concept of prisoners, the Communist idea that every person who wasn't constantly productive was a drain on the state. Others say he saw Soviet prison camps through the disappointment he suffered when he left his family in the hopes of finding religious freedom.

By the time Michael went to work in a concrete factory in the early 1960s, he was well on the way to becoming a dissident. He signed a strike there and was poignantly fired. In 1965, he landed an underground art gallery, but when he tried to exhibit the work of Marc Chagall, he was banished from the city by the Central Committee. A year later, in Moscow, he was arrested, charged with anti-Soviet agitation, and sent to a KGB prison, Lefortovo. On and off, he spent nearly 11 years in the hellish work camps that made up

what is known as the gulag. "He was held in high regard for the way he handled himself," says Father Victor Pasquon, a good friend for nearly 30 years. Although Michael was in prison with "violent criminals, he was always honorable and polite," he says.

When Michael was released in 1976, it was on the condition he would live in a remote community where his passions couldn't be heard. Instead, he returned to Moscow and met Vladimir and Helen Kuchanov, also dissidents. When Michael expressed his desire to find and bury the bones of Soviet prisoners to honor their memory, Vladimir traveled to an area near the White Sea where he had found scattered bones while hunting. He brought Michael a bagful of bones and buried some. They made a custom and created prints and documents to the cemetery, which was held in the winter of 1978. Vladimir videotaped Michael burying the bones near the Kremlin Wall.

"He had the same undergarments in his refrigerator," Gregory says. "It was shown in the U.S. and Russia in 1990." Supporting civic political agitation, the KGB would not allow them to leave the country or die.

Michael, who was married to and divorced from Ludmila twice, emigrated to the U.S. alone. "He came after Ronald Reagan was in power," Gregory says, "because he thought Reagan would do something to end Communism." He applied for political asylum, but got seriously misled, asking a letter from Russian dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn to prove his identity. In August 1984, Michael met Gregory, who had worked for the Republican party in Washington, and had emigrated to Russia. "We hit it off," Gregory says. "I realized he was a great man who needed help."

Michael became an author and human rights activist. He helped former political prisoners to move to the U.S., and often protested at the Soviet Embassy in New York along with Lithuanians, Georgians and Ukrainians. "We would have a cup of the gulag," Gregory says, "and when guests were going to the embassy to drink champagne, they would see it." The pair lived on donations. "One of the reasons his name was not as well known as other dissidents," says Gregory, "is because he fled publicly, and never brought his protest letters to the attention of the press." On March 15, Michael was traveling with Gregory from Madison, Wis., where they lived, to New York. At 12:45 a.m., they stopped at the James Remington Cooper rest stop along the New Jersey Turnpike. In the parking lot, he sat a van named Bruce K. White, a.k.a. DJ Goldblond, who was peddling religious CDs. Michael refused to buy one. He died at age 71 after being hospitalized with a rock the size of a brick.

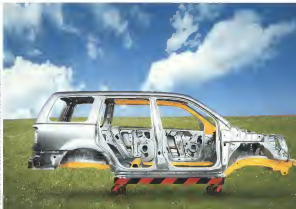
BY GARY GULLI AND BARBARA BRIGHTON

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